Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of the Legislature repealing the Derivative Beneficiaries Act?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Rogue Trader

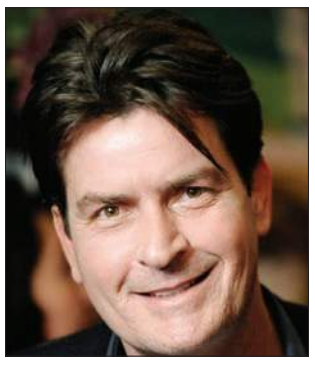
One man armed with only a computer terminal humbled a venerable banking institution yet again.

Business...Page 13

Medal of Honor

Defying orders and tempting fate, Marine corporal Dakota Meyer charged five times in a Humvee into heavy gunfire.

Nation...Page 14



Sheen Forgives

Charlie Sheen seems to have buried the hatchet.

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'40 pct. may be exempted from shutdown'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that if the House and Senate fail to pass a budget that could be signed into law before Oct. 1, only an estimated 40 percent or 700 government employees will be able to report for work including nurses, doctors, police officers, firefighters, and corrections officers, along with other so-called critical government employees and many federal-funded positions.

Inos

Over 1,000 others will be out of jobs until after a fiscal year 2012 budget bill is enacted into law.

Many Northern Marianas College and Public School System employees will also be exempted to ensure that schools will be open, along with personnel needed to ensure there's running water and power.

Of the estimated 1,800 government employees excluding those at NMC and PSS, some 40 percent could be exempted from a shutdown, said Inos.

Inos also said the Fitial administration expects to finalize an executive order by next week, but is hoping it won't need such order if the House and Senate are able to pass a budget.

"But we hope that an appropriation bill is enacted by next week so there won't be a need for issuance of an executive order," said Inos, who oversees government finances.

He hopes that the budget bill is a balanced and reasonable one.

"We hope the conference committee

See SHUTDOWN on Page 4

Child restraint use in vehicles only 69% in CNMI

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, right, is all smiles while Public Safety Commissioner Ray Mafnas, center, after Inos signed yesterday on Capital Hill a proclamation declaring Sept. 18 to 34 "Child Passenger Safety Week" and Sept. 24 "CNMI Seat Check Saturday," to drum up awareness on the importance of using child restraints in vehicles to help reduce injuries and save lives.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The use of child restraints in vehicles is only at 69.10 percent in 2010, lower by 13.9 percent compared with the usage rate of 83 percent in 2009, based on surveys that the government conducted.

Department of Public Safety officials disclosed this during yesterday's signing of a proclamation declaring Sept. 18 to 24 "Child Passenger Safety Week" and Sept. 24 "CNMI Seat Check Saturday."

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and DPS commissioner Ray Mafnas, urged the community to always use child restraints all the time, regardless of the distance of travel.

"I urge everyone to help reduce injuries and the tragic loss of life by buckling up themselves and every child on every trip, every time," Inos said during the proclamation signing on Capital Hill

See CHILD on Page 4

Senate: Saipan casino survey tentatively set for Nov. 4

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A survey seeking to ask registered Saipan voters whether they want casino gambling on island has been tentatively set for the Nov. 4 Citizenship Day holiday, as agreed to by the Senate leadership and Northern Marianas College students under the current issues class of Sam McPhetres on Thursday night.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said yesterday that senators will be providing logistical support to the NMC students who will conduct the actual survey as part of their school projects.

He said they expect no more than $5,000 to be spent, and this won't come out of the general fund but through donations. These include expenses for the ballot or survey form, gasoline for vehicles to be used by the students, and food for the students.

Torres, along with other senators, said NMC students are now devising ways to also poll absentee voters.

"The students will also be inviting the

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CUC completes major sewer line project. PAGE 2
DPH submits nominees for health corp. board. PAGE 3

Local

CUC completes major sewer line project

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After years of dealing with overflowing sewer systems, thousands of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers can now heave a sigh of relief following the completion of realignment and rerouting of the W-8 Lift Station project.

Funded by both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund grants and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, the W-8 Lift Station became operational yesterday during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the Joeten Dandan housing development site.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae disclosed that CUC initially started the project in 2005 but it was stopped for years due to funding concerns. Through EPA and ARRA funds, the project was finally completed this year.

Malae said the cost of completing the realignment and rerouting of sewer line W-8 Lift Station was a modest $550,000.

He said over 3,000 customers from several areas and villages will directly benefit from the project, whose contractor was Arch Structure Corp.

The executive director also credited the project to the leadership of his predecessor Tony Muna, whom he said was able to hire engineers from the U.S. Public Health Service.

"This is really a big blessing for us and our people because the problem of overflowing sewer system [for many years] is serious and this project addressed that concern," Malae said.

EPA, admin commend CUC

Carl Goldstein, senior program manager from the EPA's Pacific Islands Office, said they were very pleased on the completion of the sewer project.

"On behalf of the USEPA-Pacific Islands Office water division and our manager John McCarroll, we congratulate CUC on the terrific work that they have done for this project. We are especially pleased by the leadership, management, and hardworking employees of CUC who completed this project on time and within the budget," Goldstein, who was among the guest of honors during the event, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos was also elated on the additional progress achieved by the once-troubled utilities firm.

"I am very much honored to be here as we mark the completion of the realignment and rerouting of sewerline for the W-8 lift station. The completion of this project is yet another affirmation of the CNMI's commitment to prudently expending federal funds for the benefit of our island community. We remain committed to pursuing infrastructure projects that are of great importance for our community," he told the crowd.

Inos revealed that when grant funds were made available to support the project, CUC acted swiftly to secure such funding.

"This project was undertaken to address serious overflow problems that were occurring within Joeten's Fina Sisu Housing Development, which posed health threats to residents and neighbors."

Overflows finally addressed

Malae said the W-8 Lift Station project was undertaken to address serious overflow problems that were occurring within Joeten's Fina Sisu Housing Development, which were resulting in a health threat to residents and neighbors.

Malae said the initial concept was to replace the failing pumps and electrical controls inside the lift station with newer and more reliable equipment. In the process of developing the project, CUC seized the opportunity to make several additional improvements to its wastewater collection system in the area which resulted in additional health and environmental safeguards, as well as significant increases in utility efficiency and revenue generation.

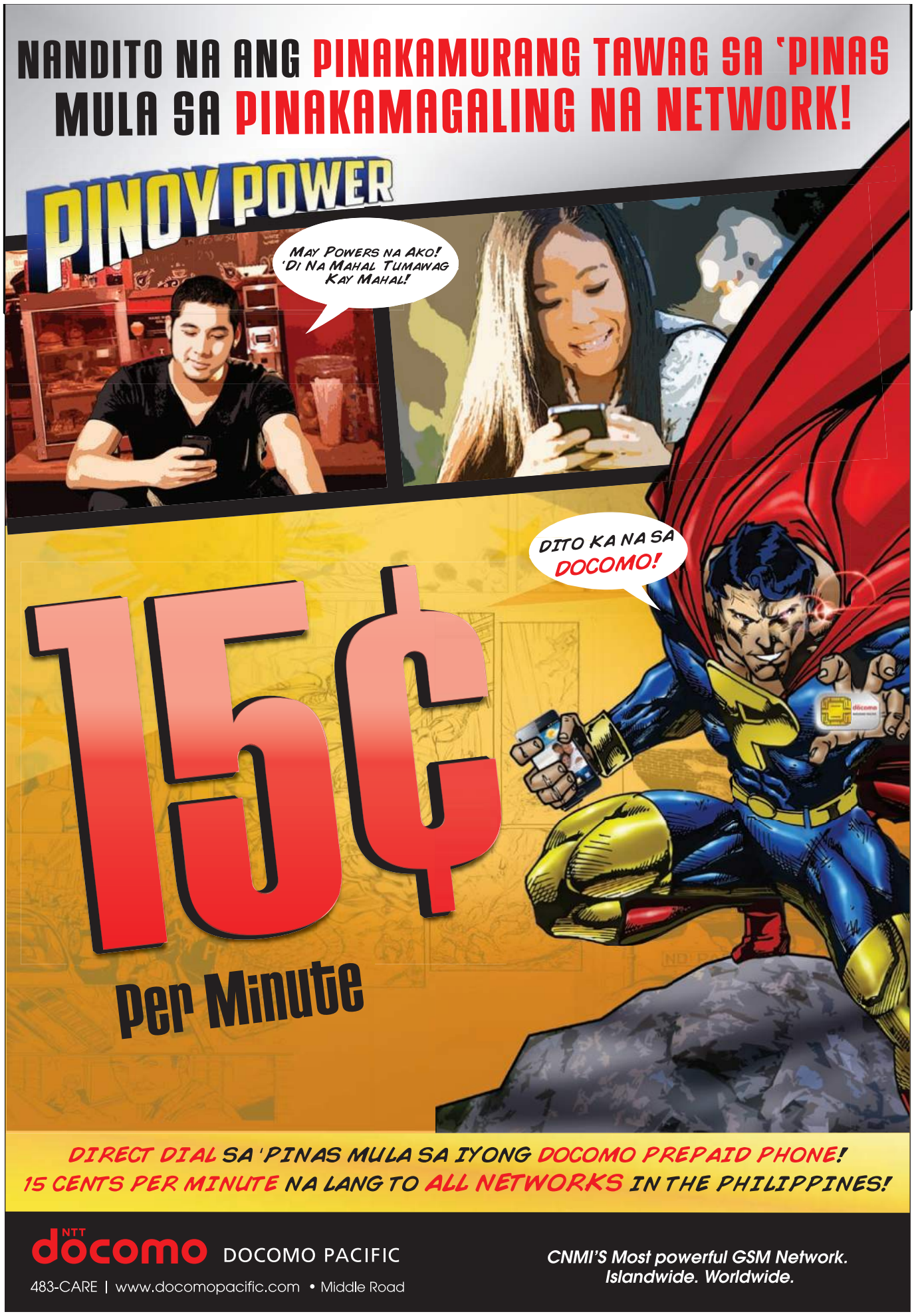
In addition to replacing and upgrading pumps and controls, which were the original focus of the project, CUC also took advantage of available ARRA funding to re-direct the wastewater from the Fina Sisu and Dandan area to the new sewer line running along Chalan Monsignor Martinez (As Lito Road), which enabled CUC to remove two other lift stations, W-7 and W-9.

The elimination of the W-9 lift station, in particular, was of tremendous value because it removed a source of frequent overflows in a highly visible and public location (just in front of Java Joe's).

Meantime, the W-7 lift station, inside the Joeten Dandan housing development, had been abandoned years ago, but wastewater still flowed through it, resulting in an accumulation of solids, odors, and a constant need for attention and maintenance by CUC staff to prevent clogging. This project finally removed the W-7 lift station for good.

According to CUC, another benefit of the re-routing of the W-8 was the reduction of flow to the antiquated Northern Marianas College sewer system, which has suffered numerous incidences of pipe failure both within the campus itself and along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero. The elimination of the Fina Sisu discharge from this piping will reduce the frequency and severity of overflows and pipe failures until CUC is able replace this system in the future.

In the process of re-routing the Fina Sisu wastewater discharge, CUC also provided for the future connection of Kannat Tabla and surrounding areas, by installing larger piping that can handle the additional flows once funding becomes available for further expansion.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DPH submits nominees for health corp. board

» Villagomez: No delay in implementation of Public Law 16-51

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite lawmakers' plans to delay the implementation of the Commonwealth Health Corporation next month, Department of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will make appointments to the corporation board soon.

Names of the prospective appointees to the seven-member board of trustees have been submitted to the governor for consideration.

"Names [of nominees] have been given to the governor and are now being reviewed. Appointments to the corporation board are expected soon," Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune*.

This means, he said, that enforcement of Public Law 16-51 that will transition the Commonwealth Health Center into the health corporation will push through as scheduled on Oct. 1, 2011, despite budgetary issues and appeals to delay its implementation.

Villagomez said the corporation will have a seven-member board of trustees of which three members shall be ex-officio voting members. One member shall be the chief executive officer to be selected by the board, the second member will be the nursing director, and the third given position is for the medical director.

Four of the members shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate—two will come from Saipan and one each from Rota and Tinian.

He refused to disclose the individuals being considered for these four posts.

Fitial's spokesperson, Angel Demapan, yesterday confirmed that the governor is "currently reviewing a pool of potential candidates that may be appointed to the board" and that he wants to make sure that the qualifications and representation requirements prescribed by law are complied with.

Villagomez, who is leading the transition committee created by the governor, said the group had conducted comprehensive analysis and review of all the health centers' operation and staffing for the smooth start of the corporation.

He admitted that with only $5 million in seed money as starting capital for the corporation, challenges and struggles are anticipated.

"With the current economic condition, there's never going to be an opportune time [for this corporation]. Yes, there will be struggles in the early phase of the corporation which may take not months but some years, but we will figure out how best to move it," he said.

Villagomez said the administration assures that despite a "self-sufficient" entity beginning Oct. 1, the government will continue to provide assistance.

"The administration assured us that they are not going to leave us out on our own immediately and we will continue to work with them," he said.

The health corporation is expected to provide autonomy and management flexibility to the DPH. It will execute a memorandum of understanding for the orderly transfer of personnel, property, and funds from CHC to the corporation.

Having a healthcare corporation will also improve management efficiency by allowing managers to better focus on hospital operations.

The corporation, based on law, is authorized to enter into performance management contracts and other types of contracts with non-profit entities and private sector firms for the management functions and delivery of healthcare services.

It will assume the functions and duties of CHC, the Rota Health Center, the Tinian Health Center, the Women's Clinic, the Children's Clinic, the Community Guidance Center, inter-island medical referral services, and other clinics.

Foremost donates 300 cases of non-fat milk to Karidat

In its continuing campaign to promote good nutrition and healthy living, Foremost Foods Saipan made a 300-case donation of Foremost Non-fat Milk to Karidat, a Northern Mariana Islands social service provider, on Sept. 9.

In a statement, Angie V. Leon Guerrero, executive director, Karidat, said, "On behalf of the clients that we serve, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Foremost Foods Saipan for their thoughtfulness and generosity in donating 300 cases of Foremost Non-fat Milk."

Bulk of the 7,200 quarts of Foremost Non-fat Milk went to Guma' Esperansa, the Karidat shelter for women, according to Guerrero. Some of the milk was given to onlookers who asked for it when the delivery was made.

"When passersby saw the Foremost truck in front of Karidat, they stopped by to ask for milk, for themselves and for other family members," Leon Guerrero said. Leon Guerrero noted the significance of the donation, "Foremost Foods' generosity showed that it cares for the community. In times of economic hardship, such as what we are experiencing, any donation helps to alleviate the economic difficulties of the people."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Angie V. Leon Guerrero, executive director, Karidat, receives 300 cases of Foremost Non-fat Milk Quart on behalf of the social service provider from Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Foremost Foods Saipan.

Glen D. Hunter, group business manager, Foremost Foods Saipan, said the company would like to do its share in advancing good nutrition across all sectors of the community through the healthful food and beverage segment of Foremost.

"Foremost recognizes the need to increase awareness of healthy eating habits in all parts of our island community. We are gratified that more and more people are switching to healthy food choices such as non-fat milk or reduced fat milk. We are committed to fulfill our mission to make Foremost a part of your life; certainly, a part of everyone's improved nutrition," Hunter said. ***(PR)***

13 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Plumeria Hotel, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, Smiling Cove Marina, American Memorial Park, Fiesta Resort Drainage, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Hafadai Drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach Drainage, and Sugar Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **September 20**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **September 20**.

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Dela Cruz pushes for vote on elected AG initiative

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) asked House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) to pull out from a committee his legislative initiative authorizing the election of an attorney general so it can be voted on in the next session.

But Cabrera said he will be conferring with leadership members on what to do with Dela Cruz's House Legislative Initiative 17-2.

"The initiative has been there for quite long. It is high time we pull it out of the committee so we can dispose of it once and for all… The issues confronting the AG make it more important to have this initiative acted on," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Dela Cruz was referring to the CNMI Bar Association's investigation of attorney general Edward Buckingham over alleged violation of ethics rules in connection with his approval of a sole-source ARRA management contract worth close to $400,000. Buckingham said he has never violated any ethics rules or laws.

Buckingham has also been criticized for hosting a delegate candidate event in 2010, but the Office of the Public Auditor has not publicly released the results of such an investigation. But Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he did not agree with OPA's findings of violations, but did not want to release the OPA report either.

Dela Cruz also brought up the issue of acting on his initiative before the House adjourned its session on Thursday.

HLI 17-2 was already headed for the Commonwealth Election Commission to be placed on the ballot after it passed the Senate in March this year.

However, the House recalled the initiative to clarify discrepancies in the proposed salary.

Dela Cruz's original initiative proposed a $150,000 annual salary for the elected AG, but what was transmitted to the Senate only reflected a salary of $80,000 which Dela Cruz said won't be attractive to prospective candidates.

When the initiative went back to the House, the speaker referred it back to the Judiciary and Government Operations Committee.

Dela Cruz introduced the initiative on Jan. 28, 2011. He said the measure has already undergone much review and discussion that there's no need to prolong the process.

The initiative seeks to amend Article III, Section 11 of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the election of an attorney general. Once it clears the Legislature, voters could decide on whether or not to elect an AG in the next midterm elections in 2012.

Under Dela Cruz's HLI 17-2, the elected AG would have a term of four years and cannot serve for more than two terms.

Similar initiatives were introduced in previous legislatures but they were either passed by one house and rejected by the other one, or did not even come out of a committee. This time around, the measure passed both houses but discrepancies in the proposed salary caused a delay in the process.

HEFTY SCHOLARSHIPS UOG

University of Guam's Army ROTC cadet Benjamin Duff received a three-year $40,000 National Scholarship and cadet Lee Ignacio received a $29,000 two-year Leadership Training Course Scholarship during the UOG Army ROTC Triton Warrior Battalion change of command ceremony on Sept. 16, 2011. The scholarships were funded by the U.S. Army Cadet Command. Pictured from left are Duff, Maj. Scott Bartley, professor of Military Science, and Ignacio.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on two burglary and theft incidents that occurred at two separate tourist's sites this past week.

On Sept. 7, 2011, at about 10:30am, two Japanese tourists accompanied by their tour guide, parked their car, a 2001 Silver Toyota Rav 4, at the Last Command Post. They took photographs and returned to the car 10 minutes later to discover the left rear passenger window broken. The items stolen include a black-colored pouch, cash, and a pink and black cell phone. Total value is estimated at $300.

On Monday, Sept. 12, 2011, at about 11am, the victim an oriental local female, accompanied by a male, parked their car, a 2001 Silver Toyota Camry at Ladder Beach. They both went down to the beach and returned to their car about 20 minutes later to discover the driver side window shattered and a wallet stolen. The items stolen include over $200 cash, an ATM card, and ID.

There was a dark green or blue Toyota Yaris with tinted windows seen parked near both crime scenes before the crime occurred.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call.

Anyone having information about these crimes, or any other crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest.

Caller ID is not used. Send web tips to www.nmicrimestoppers.com. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

Water service shutdown in Agag/Papago area

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced a water service outage in Agag/Papago area on Monday, Sept. 19, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

The shutdown is to allow completion of the well-isolation project which scope of work includes capping the existing direct feed well and open up the new distribution line to the customers. Affected areas included residents living along Pap ago Drive, Between Drive, Pine Drive, including the side roads of the portion of Pap ago Drive. ***(CUC)***

SHUTDOWN

From Page 1

meets as soon as possible. It is urgent that they meet as soon as possible," he said.

There are only 13 days left before the start of FY 2012 on Oct. 1.

If no budget is signed into law before that date, the shutdown provision of the NMI Constitution kicks in.

The remaining period also does not give the governor at least 20 days to review the budget bill as allowed, but Inos said the administration has been keeping an eye on the Legislature's actions on the budget so that they don't need to take days before acting on a bill once it clears the House and Senate.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, started meeting with his fellow House conferees yesterday.

"We're starting to work as conferees. We were told that the Senate conferees will be ready to meet with us on Monday. I would have wanted to start the meeting today with the senators but three of the Senate conferees are on Rota for a Friday public hearing on Article 12 which is also an important issue," Basa told *Saipan Tribune*.

The House conferees will meet again today, hoping to draw a list of main areas of concerns regarding the budget.

But there's no telling yet whether the conferees will go over the Senate or House version of the budget, and list their major concerns based on that budget version.

Basa and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said the first meeting of all the conferees will be on Monday at 10am, or five days after the House rejected the Senate-substituted budget bill.

House members said the senators' proposal to "zero out" the operational budget of all the lawmakers, as well as the leadership accounts of the House and Senate, is "absurd" and "unrealistic," and sends a message that senators "might as well shut down the Legislature."

Senators zeroed out these accounts to give more to the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Rota, and Tinian.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said it will now be up to the conferees to work out a bill agreeable to both houses.

The lieutenant governor said many government employees already have difficulty living with a 16-hour pay cut every two weeks, and the situation would be worse when they are forced to temporarily not report for work if there's a shutdown.

"If a 16-hour reduction in wages is bad, or is not conducive to the livelihood of the employees… then imagine what a total shutdown would be (like)… instead of 16 hours, 80 hours are not getting paid," he said, depending on the "duration" of the shutdown.

Last year, the government partially shut down for 10 days as a result of a budget deadlock between the House and Senate.

Inos said the Fitial administration is "concerned" that lessons may not have been learned from last year's shutdown, causing "anxiety" among government employees and the public at large which depends on government services.

SENATE

From Page 1

Office of the Public Auditor and the Office of the Attorney General to become observers during the day of the survey," Torres said.

The Senate tapped NMC students when the House leadership made it clear that it won't act on a Senate bill seeking a special election to ask voters whether they want to legalize casino gambling on Saipan.

McPhetres' current issues classes have been involved in surveys and studies of the hottest issues in the community, including the reunification of the CNMI and Guam, the impact of the federal minimum wage increases on CNMI people's living conditions, primary causes of domestic violence, addiction to poker gambling, and impact of stray animals.

House members supporting a Saipan casino legislation said this is one industry that can help sustain the local economy at this time of partial payless paydays, work hour cuts, and joblessness, but the Senate leadership said the decision to allow such industry should rest with voters.

CHILD

From Page 1

yesterday morning.

Research shows car seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for children younger than 1 year, and by 54 percent for children 1 to 4 years old, Inos said in his proclamation.

"We know that child safety seats help save lives and reduce injuries. We also know that they are most effective when installed and used correctly. Sadly, nearly three out of four child safety seats are not used properly. Starting now, working together, we must join forced to prevent these deaths and injuries," the lieutenant governor added.

During the Child Passenger Week, there will be hundreds of free child safety seat inspection stations set up across the country, including the CNMI.

DPS alone will have certified child passenger safety technicians that will provide free onsite child safety inspections at various times and locations on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The goal is to educate parents and caregivers about best practice when traveling with children from birth through age 12 and proper installation and use of child safety seats.

In the U.S., there was an average of two children age 12 and younger killed in 2009, and an average of 340 were injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes as occupants of passenger vehicles.

Also nationwide, for children ages 1 through 12, it is the leading cause of death. Authorities said it is hard to overstate the toll this takes on families, but together the community can put an end to this tragedy.

In all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories including the CNMI, there are laws requiring the use of child safety seats and seat belts for children traveling in motor vehicles. These laws were enacted because of the tremendous safety benefits they provide.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 025 E 01, containing an area of approximately 12,225 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is L&T Group of Companies, Ltd., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, and Glicerio Arago.

The President of the Corporation is Willie Tan. The Vice President is Jerry Tan. The Treasurer/Secretary is Glicerio Arago.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Glicerio Arago.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating the business of warehousing, moving, loading and unloading and storage of property , and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before September 27, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

I MAPROPONI NA INEKSTENSION ATKILON TÅNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi nutisia Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku Siha guini ha nutisia na i intension-ña na para u rekumenda i inekstendin atkilon gi sigienti na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha.

Esti i inekstendin atkilon masuhetu para i inaprueban i Leyislatura gi Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikulu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum imfetmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra gi tinahgui na propositu siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Komu sigi mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, gi sigienti pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda para u mapupblika.

i. I atkilon i lugåt madiskribi komu tanu' pupbliku Lot No. 025 E 01, kinonsisti kåsi guaha 12,225 na åria (square meters), putlumenus pat mås, ni gaigi giya Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian esti na lugåt yan i pumalu nai guaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku ni para u marikunosi.

ii. I manatkikila i L & T Group of Companies, Ltd., i CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Kuetpu siha gi Corporation si Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, yan si Glicerio Arago.

I Presidentin i Corporation si Willie Tan. I Sigundu Presidenti si Jerry Tan. I Tresureru/Sikritåriu si Glicerio Arago.

iii. I maproponin inekstendin atkilon manigosiu as Siñot Glicerio Arago.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kuntinuha umusa i lugåt solamienti para i maneran operasion bisnis i warehousing, moving, loading yan unloading yan storage i property, yan aktibidåt siha ni uma'achuli' guihi siha.

I teman esti na kuntråta inekstendin atkilon sa' kinsi (15) åñus.

v. I kopian i kuntråtan i manmaproponi na inekstendin atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, gaigi gi mina'sigundu(2nd) bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat gi Primet(1st) bibienda giya Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu tanu' pupbliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sikritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta i tinigi' imfotmasion, opiñon, testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i gai intires na petsona siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 27, 2011 gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sów Ffééról Allégh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe ischilong aghiyghiir, awewee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No.025 E 01, ebwe yoor seigh me eew sangaras ruwabwughúw reweigh me limoow llapal (12, 225 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge L&T Group of Company, CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil asamwool kkey (Directors) mellól Corporation nge Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, me Glicerio Arago.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Willie Tan. Arúscheyil Samwool nge Jerry Tan.
Treasurer/Secretary nge Glicerio Arago.

iii. School aweweel akkilon yeel nge Mr. Glicerio Arago..

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe sobwey yaal mwóghut ágheli bisinisil sokko, amwatal me atotootiw me sokkol peiragh me akkááw mwóghutul.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years)

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Maan (September) 27, 2011 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 010 B 96, containing an area of approximately 909 square meters, more or less, and Lot No. 010 B 97, containing an area of approximately 1,072 square meters, more or less, situated in San Roque, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is V & C Enterprises, Inc., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, and Neda B. Camacho.

The President of the Corporation is Victoria B. Camacho. The Vice Presidents are Cathy C. Villagomez and Claudine B. Camacho. The Treasurer is Michelle C. Macaranas. The Secretary is Neda B. Camacho.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mrs. Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating a grocery store, coin operated laundromat, poker machine establishment, gasoline service/filling station, mini-mart, storage and facilities directly related to these activities.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in San Roque, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before September 27, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensionña para u rekumenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Esti na inekstendin atkilon siha manmasuhetu para i inaprueban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas gi sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 010 B 96, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 909 square meters, putlumenus mås, yan i Lot No. 010 B 97, kinonsisti i åria ni kåsi guaha 1,072 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya San Roque, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i V & C Enterprises, Inc., i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpun Direktot siha gi Corporation si Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, yan si Neda B. Camacho.

I Presidenti gi Corporation si Victoria B. Camacho. I sigundu Presidenti si Cathy C. Villagomez yan si Claudine B. Camacho. I Tresureria si Michelle C. Macaranas. I Sekritåria si Neda B. Camacho.

iii. I maproponi na ekstension atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñora Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai i operasion tendan grocery, coin operated laundromat, inistapblesin måkinan poker, setbisiun gasoline/filling station, mini mart, storage yan fasilidåt siha ni mana'achuli' guini na aktibidåt.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråta ekstension atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya San Roque, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 27, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL EBWE SÓBWEEYLÓ AKKILON-UL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (a) me (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyool Faluweer Toulap ekke atotoow ammataf igha e tipáli bwe ebwe tingóór extension reel akkilon mereel eghus falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Lease extension yeel ebwe alúghúlúghló mereel Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas Commonwealth Legislature sángi llól mandate ye e towoow mellól Article XI, § 5(c) mellól Constitution-ul Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Reer toulap schóókka eyoor yaar mwuschel rebwe issisilong yaar mwáliili, mángemáng, aweewe me angiingil reel poomw kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me Public Law 15-2, e ayoora lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Akkilon-ul falúw yeel ekke bwáárilo bwe public land Lot No. 010 B 96, emmwel ebwe yoor tiwabwughúw tiwoow (909) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, me ebwe yoor eew Lot No. 010 B 97 sangaras fissigh me ruwoow (1,072) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo San Roque, Seipél. Tiliighil bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyol Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schóól lessee nge V & C Enterprises, Inc, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur Board-ul Corporation yeel nge ikka, Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, me Neda B. Camacho.

President-il Corporation yeel nge Victoria B. Camacho. Vice President nge Cathy C. Villagomez me Claudine B. Camacho. Treasurer nge Michelle C. Macaranas. Secretary nge Neda B. Camacho.

iii. Schóól aweewel pomwol lease extension yeel nge Mrs. Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe sóbweyló yaal yáali bwuley yeel reel mwóghutul ebwe ayoor grocery store, coin operated Laundromat, poker machine establishment, gasoline service/filling station, mini-mart, storage me facilities kka ebwe yáayá reel milikkaal.

Tool abwungubwungul extension yeel nge seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol annual rental reel tool nge ebwe bweibwogh sángi percentage-il appraised fair market value reel properties.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul ebwe sóbweeyló akkilon yeel emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mellól bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap(Department of Public Land) esáál bweighbwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye public lands me San Roque, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Secretary of the Department of Public Lands) ebwe bwughil iischil mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa mereel pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli, wóól me ngáre mmwal Maan (September) 27, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands offices) kka elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Last call for Venezuela?

After months of indecision, Venezuela's National Elections Council finally made it official on Tuesday—the next presidential election will be held in October 2012. Now is the time for Venezuela's chronically divided democratic opposition to put aside its differences and resolve to challenge President Hugo Chavez with a unity candidate.

A coalition of opposition parties has already declared that it will pick a single contender to go up against Chavez and his electoral machine, but previous efforts to maintain a united front against the powerful leader and his all-encompassing political apparatus have fallen short.

Given Chavez's brazen attempts to remain in office at all costs—and his open declaration that he has no intention of abandoning power—the opposition has good reason to doubt whether a victory at the polls would be recognized by the government. But a strong showing is still necessary to demonstrate that Venezuelans have not given up on the possibility of controlling their own future.

Credible polling figures say Chavez remains popular with many Venezuelans, with his favorability ratings anywhere from half to nearly 60 percent, depending on the poll. But last year, the opposition won 52 percent of the votes in parliamentary elections. Under the Chavez-rigged system, that failed to translate into majority control of the legislative branch, but it's an important straw in the wind. And in 2008, Chavez opponents won the most populous states in regional elections.

For Venezuelans, stepping up to challenge the regime is no easy task. Prominent opponents have found themselves thrown in jail on trumped-up charges, and news outlets that attempted to report information questioning the government's actions have come under enormous pressure, with some broadcasters losing their licenses to operate.

After more than 12 years as president, Hugo Chavez has systematically dismantled the democratic institutions of Venezuela, making himself a popularly elected autocrat rather than a democrat. He controls the courts and the legislature, as well as many governorships and municipalities, where he has installed his own capos to run things. Last year the archbishop of Caracas accused Chavez of installing a "Marxist-communist" regime in the country.

And that was before the legislature hastily approved a package of laws in December creating a parallel governing order that would eventually replace the nominal democracy in Venezuela. In effect, Chavez can govern by decree.

The president's unrestricted power is the fundamental issue facing Venezuela's voters, and the one that the opposition should hammer at every turn. Another involves state corruption. Last year, the corruption watchdog Transparency International ranked Venezuela among the least transparent (and most corrupt) countries in the world—162nd out of 180, right there with Angola and both Congos.

And, yes, Chavez's minions are involved in it up to their necks. Last week, four of his allies were accused by the U.S. Treasury Department of violating a "narcotics kingpin" law by collaborating with an outlawed Colombian group in narcotics and arms trafficking.

The accusation will likely have little impact on Venezuela's government and its relations with the United States _ already near rock-bottom _ but it should cause the people of Venezuela to question the leadership of their government. Next year may offer the last, best chance for them to effect change at the ballot box.

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Many Iraqis who helped the US still awaiting visas

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

In July, I wrote about the plight of Iraqis who worked with U.S. soldiers and civilians but face death as "collaborators" when we leave. Their situation remains unresolved.

Congress set up a special program in 2008 to grant these Iraqis 25,000 special immigrant visas (SIVs) over five years. Only 3,629 have been issued thus far; at least 1,500 are pending.

Yet, some Iraqis who have virtually completed the process have been told they must wait an additional eight months while more security checks are conducted.

Senior administration officials are working to speed up the process (more about this below). But, as our troops come home and bases close, time is of the essence. Many Iraqi interpreters can no longer remain on bases where they have lived for safety; some SIV applicants are moving from house to house under death threat.

Simple decency _ not to mention a moral obligation _ demands we get these loyal Iraqis out before we leave their country. Read some of the e-mails I've received from desperate SIV applicants and you'll see why:

"Ma'am: I am writing to tell you about the situation of the Iraqis who helped Americans here in Iraq. I have worked with the U.S. Army as a linguist (translator) for 17 months in Mosul, which is one of the most dangerous places in Iraq. I have been threatened by terrorists many times because of my job and I lost three members of my family as a result. I'm waiting to get the visa since March 2011.

"It's very dangerous for me to stay in Iraq; now I can't see my family, I can't finish my school, and I can't have normal life as a human because too much people in Iraq think that everyone who helped the Americans is a traitor and should be killed. Please, if you can tell anyone to find a solution for us, because if the U.S. Army leaves Iraq by end of this year, we are all going to get killed by the militias."

Yours sincerely,

Eric (his nickname)

Dear Miss: "Since the date of my SIV visa interview 31 October 2010, till now, we have got nothing. My family and me are living in very bad conditions (they had to leave their house after the bombing of churches in their Christian neighborhood.) You can imagine the view of my 15-months son when an explosion happens near our house.

"We Christians are very easy targets for anyone because nobody is defending us. We fear the imminent U.S. troop retreat that will definitely lead to big chaos in Iraq and we will be easy victims. We are hearing that it is the security check that causes all these delaying, but what security check is taking 11 months without completion?" (Especially since he has a host of relatives who are already American citizens, including his parents, two brothers, two aunts, and two uncles.)

Thank you, also from my wife Basma & Gerard (my little angel)." S.

You can read more of these e-mails on my blog (www.philly.com/worldview). The point they all make is the urgency of the situation.

One translator who helped carry out a U.S. investigation of fraud in Iraqi government ministries wrote that two attempts had been made on his life; he's had to live on U.S. bases since February for safety, but his unit is leaving. Yet, he was told in June that it will take eight to 12 months more to get his visa, despite recommendations from U.S. officers.

Senior administration officials tell me they are focused on the visa issue "at the highest level of government." They say the process has been streamlined, and personnel shifted to speed the additional security checks.

"We are working through the current backlog with a serious sense of urgency," one official told me. "We don't anticipate this will take eight months." He said there were procedures in place to expedite particularly urgent cases. "We know that the United States has a special responsibility to Iraqis who worked on our behalf."

However, none of the desperate Iraqis who've contacted me since July has had an update about their visas. One who tried to expedite his case was told, again, he'd have to wait several months. That's a potential death sentence. (I've also received e-mails about Iraqis who thought they'd been approved for SIVs and were suddenly rejected for unspecified "security reasons," no details given, no right to appeal.)

We have to rescue these Iraqis. And there's a precedent. In 1996, the United States evacuated 6,000 endangered Iraqi opposition activists from northern Iraq to Guam, then did security checks there. The British and Danes evacuated their Iraqi staff when they left southern Iraq.

Might we do the same?

"There is no plan to institute a mass evacuation," a senior administration official told me. But if our bureaucracy can't get the SIV backlog cleared before our troops leave, we must get those Iraqis out. There's only four months left. I say: Start planning the evacuation now.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Yes to Palestine

By REZA ASLAN
Los Angeles Times

Reza Aslan is the founder of AslanMedia.com and the author of "No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Later this month, the Palestinian Authority intends to go before the United Nations to request recognition of an independent Palestinian state. Although there is strong backing for the bid, the United States, in the name of supporting Israel, has stated its willingness to use its Security Council veto power to keep the Palestinians from joining the U.N. as a full voting member. The U.S. has also refused to join in a more symbolic General Assembly vote that could change the Palestinians' status from a "nonvoting observer entity" to a "nonvoting observer state."

Here are five reasons the United States should support the Palestinian bid and not exercise its veto at the United Nations.

(1) Negotiations have failed.

Two decades of negotiations have not brought the Palestinians a state of their own. Israelis and Palestinians blame each other for the current impasse.

But the question of who is at fault is irrelevant. What matters is that in 1993, when the Oslo accords set up a framework for a negotiated settlement for a two-state solution, there were a little more than 100,000 Israeli settlers living in the West Bank. Now that number stands at more than 300,000. According to the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, about half a million Israelis now live "over the Green Line" in what is designated as the future Palestinian state. Every day the Palestinians wait for a negotiated state, another sliver of that state is absorbed into Israel. A few more years and practically nothing will remain.

(2) The current Likud-led Israeli government is unlikely to ever agree to a sovereign Palestinian state.

A decade ago, Benjamin Netanyahu, vying for Likud Party leadership, made his position clear in a speech to the group's central committee: "My friends," he said in 2002, " we must present the situation in the clearest possible way: We won't lend a hand to the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan River.... We must vote as one in favor of the draft resolution against a Palestinian state."

It is true that seven years later, under intense pressure from the Obama administration, Netanyahu, as Israeli prime minister, grudgingly accepted the notion of a Palestinian state in principle. But the unprecedented conditions he called for—that it have no military, no control over its borders, no capital in East Jerusalem, no right of return for Palestinian refugees and that it recognize Israel as a "Jewish state"—seemed deliberately designed to negate the possibility of true Palestinian sovereignty.

Even if Netanyahu were to begin pushing for a Palestinian state, it is highly unlikely that his ultra-right-wing coalition would allow him to succeed. Indeed, immediately after Netanyahu's 2009 speech, powerful members of his party demanded that he retract his statement entertaining the possibility of a Palestinian state. As one of Likud's most influential Knesset members, Danny Danon, vowed: "I will attempt to cause this sentence, which was said under American pressure, never to come into being."

(3) President Obama has utterly failed to advance the Middle East peace process.

Obama came into office vowing a more active and evenhanded approach to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Yet beyond a few lofty speeches about Palestinian suffering, he has offered no substantive policy shifts or specific proposals for moving negotiations forward. Obama's attempt to temporarily stop Israel from building settlements in the occupied territories backfired when he caved in to Israeli intransigence. The administration then had the nerve to veto a nonbinding U.N. resolution condemning the very settlements Obama himself had condemned. The president's barely newsworthy suggestion that negotiations for a two-state solution be based on the 1967 borders with land swaps (which, as the basis for the Oslo accords, has been the principle advanced, if not publicly announced, by every U.S. president since Jimmy Carter) was ridiculed by the Israeli prime minister, and in the Capitol building, no less. The president's kowtowing to Netanyahu and the Israeli right wing has made the U.S. look weak on the global stage. If for no other reason than to prove to the world that the U.S. is not Israel's lap dog, the president should refrain from vetoing a Palestinian state.

(4) Contrary to popular belief, it is not political suicide to defy the will of Israel.

There is no doubt that American public opinion remains overwhelmingly pro-Israel. But polls show that the majority of Americans believe the U.S. should not favor one side over the other in the conflict. Among thoughtful leaders in the media, military and foreign affairs, there has been a consensus that our policy toward Israel is severely damaging America's interests and image around the world. According to a 2008 J Street poll, 78% of American Jews said they supported a two-state solution and 81% wanted the U.S. to pressure both sides to end the conflict.

Of course, the Republicans will try to paint Obama and the Democrats as "anti-Israel" if the president fails to veto the U.N. vote. But this has been a consistent strategy on the part of the GOP for years, and it has always failed. In any case, the same J Street poll found that only 8% of Jews cite Israel as an issue in deciding whom to vote for for president.

(5) Palestinians are doing almost exactly what Israelis did 60 years ago.

Israel maintains that the Palestinians cannot declare statehood and seal it through the U.N. Yet the Palestinians are merely following the trail blazed by Israel six decades ago. In 1948, after the U.N. voted for the partition of Palestine, debate among the world powers about how to divide the land dragged on and violence between Jews and Arabs grew worse. The Jewish Agency simply preempted negotiations and unilaterally declared the state of Israel; the United States immediately recognized it, and the U.N. accepted Israeli sovereignty the following year.

The Palestinian Authority has come to the same conclusion that the Jews apparently came to in 1948: Negotiations will not lead to an independent state; the only way forward is unilateral action. By rejecting that strategy outright, Israel is not only being hypocritical; it is invalidating its own existence as a state.

There is one more reason to support the Palestinians' bid at the United Nations. It is the moral thing to do. During his first presidential campaign, Obama said, "Nobody is suffering more than the Palestinian people." Now, he has the opportunity to live up to his own beliefs and promises, and to provide the Palestinian people with the same sense of dignity that Harry Truman gave Israel 60 years ago.

Letters to the Editor

My initial thoughts on the CNMI Transitional Worker Final Rule

After reading the Final Rule on the CNMI Transitional Worker, I sense that many of those who are affected have lingering questions that have not been answered.

I would like to offer a few comments on this piece of legislation as an immigration attorney with more than twenty years of experience in the field.

1. Processing of employment-based nonimmigrant visa petitions at the California Service Center currently takes about two months, but the processing time varies from month to month, depending on the workload and priorities.

2. The vast majority of the foreign workers in the CNMI will not qualify for the H-1B visa for a variety of reasons.

3. Given the extreme difficulty in getting H-1B petitions approved by the California Service Center, filing for the CW-1 visa is definitely the better option.

4. Since all CW-1 petitions are filed with the same division at the California Service Center that handles H-1B petitions, the petitioner should clearly point out to the adjudicating officer that the standards for adjudicating a CW-1 petition are different than those for an H-1B petition.

5. The petition should be sent to the California Service Center by certified mail with return receipt or, if time is a concern, Express Mail or Fedex should be used.

6. In determining whether a petition is timely filed at the California Service Center, the date of receipt of the petition controls, not the date of mailing.

7. A CW-1 worker can start working for the new employer on the day of filing. Proof of filing is important here. A cautious employer may choose to wait until the receipt arrives.

8. When the CW-1 petition is approved, the employer should give the original approval notice (Form I-797) to the foreign worker. The foreign worker has to present the original approval notice when he or she applies for the CW-1 visa abroad and also when he or she travels abroad.

9. If the foreign worker plans on applying for the CW-1 visa at a consular post, he or she should inform the petitioner to file the petition in duplicate and instruct USCIS to forward a copy of the petition to the appropriate post. This will save time and expense for both the petitioner and the foreign worker.

10. Dependents who are eligible for the CW-2 visa need not apply together with the CW-1 principal if they are residing abroad. They should take care of their affairs back home and wait until the CW-1 visa holder has settled down in the CNMI before putting in their visa applications at the consular post.

11. If your CW-1 petition is denied, the employer can file either a Motion to Reopen/Reconsider or an Appeal. The filing fee of either the motion or the appeal is $630. The processing time on a motion is usually about two months but I have had some that have taken longer. The processing time on an appeal on an H-1B petition is 21 months. If the same processing time applies to CW-1 petitions with a one-year validity period, there would be no point in filing an appeal. The better course of action would be to file a new CW-1 petition.

12. The transitional worker rule is supposed to give foreign workers until Dec. 31, 2014, to determine an appropriate long-term immigration status for themselves and their families. Under present conditions, it is very unlikely that this could happen before Dec. 31, 2014. I expect an extension of the CW visa classification for another five years. I can think of at least three reasons. First, the lack of economic data prevents the filing of PERM applications. Second, visa retrogression is so severe that it would take at least six years for a typical foreign worker to acquire any form of permanent residence. The wait is even longer for those from China and India. Third, imagine what would happen if the CW visas of the estimated 22,000 foreign workers and their families suddenly lapse at the stroke of midnight on 12/31/2014. It would be a logistical and public relations nightmare for USCIS, ICE, and the U.S. immigration court to process such a large volume of visa overstayers. A huge detention facility would have to be built at taxpayers' expense to house those who are not able to post bail and the sheer number of cases could bog down the court system for years.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Please send them to my email address: pengchan77@yahoo.com.

Peng C. Chan, Esq.
Pasadena, CA

Dialysis is mostly obsolete

Dialysis is actually mostly obsolete. In 2002, I published how to prevent 90 percent of it. Anybody with high blood pressure or diabetes, the two main causes of kidney failure, can contact www.genomed.com so that we can keep them off dialysis. I'd appreciate your telling them about this.

David Moskowitz MD FACP
Vie email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

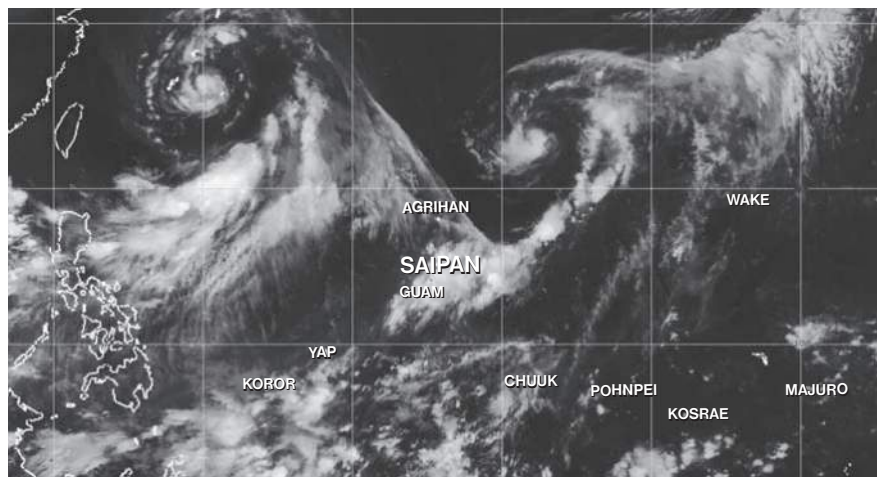
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Rain	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼53
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼51
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼76
London	Showers	▲62	▼51
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲66	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼77
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼54
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼48
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲78	▼69
Rome	Sunny	▲91	▼66
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼57
Seoul	Showers	▲75	▼64
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Sonca (19W) is centered about 165 miles south-southeast of Minami Torishima at 23N155E. Sonca is moving north-northwest at 10 mph with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the center over Minami Torishima or north of a line from 21N151E to 23N158E. A surface trough reaches eastward from Sonca to beyond 25N at 162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are taking place north of Wake Island or north of a line from 23N158E to 24N165E. For more information on Tropical Storm Sonca, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. A monsoon trough reaches southeastward from near Iwo To island through 25N135E to near Agrihan at 19N145E then turns northeastward to Tropical Storm Sonca. Converging surface winds near and south of the monsoon trough are producing numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms well north of Koror and Yap and also over Iwo To island within 125 miles of a line from 18N130E to 20N138E to 25N141E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found east of the Marianas and south of Minami Torishima within 80 miles of a line from 15N147E to 17N154E to 22N158E. Converging trade winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 8N154E to 5N144E and also south of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 8N143E to 5N130E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:24 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
4:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:53 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:15 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:17 PM	9:38 AM
Sunday	10:02 PM	10:28 AM
Monday	10:51 PM	11:19 AM
Tuesday	11:43 PM	12:11 PM
Wednesday		1:02 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 24, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 4, 7
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am	5, via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 17, 1999

Teno: No to control of CNMI economy
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has expressed concern over key provisions of the legislation seeking to extend federal immigration laws to the Northern Marianas, saying these would lead to control of the island's economy and its future by U.S. administrators hostile to the Commonwealth. He maintained it would be impossible to get impartial assessment of the CNMI's capability to handle its own immigration if White House officials will be given the sole discretion to determine whether the Immigration and Nationality Act will be applied here and how. While generally opposed to the federal takeover measure, Tenorio outlined his objections on several provisions of S. 1052 in a 25-page testimony presented to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee at Tuesday's hearing in Washington D.C.

CNMI Disabilities Council gets federal grant
The U.S. Administration on Developmental Disabilities has approved the application of the CNMI Developmental Disabilities Council's for a federal grant amounting to $92,088. Based on the grant award, the CNMI will develop and implement locally the national Partners in Policymaking Island Style Project under the ADD's Family Support program. In applying for a federal grant, the CNMI GDDC competed with over 40 applicants nationwide and is among the 22 approved proposals, according to Thomas J. Camacho, executive director of GDCC. "This is a competitive grant and our chances were slim since we are competing with other states, commonwealths and territories," said Camacho.

Sept. 17, 2001

CUC appeals judgment on CDA case
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation filed a notice of appeal before the CNMI Superior Court Friday, adding a new chapter to its legal battle with the Commonwealth Development Authority involving $102 million in CIP funds. The CUC, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, filed the notice of appeal eight days after the issuance of an order by Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama. Attached with the pleading is a Transcript Designation and Order Form, where Sers Nicholas expressed his interest for a copy of the transcript of the August 24 hearing at the courtroom of Lizama, particularly the oral arguments regarding the motions of both parties for summary judgment.

Camacho seeks resolution to CDA-CUC case
The chair of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication expressed disappointment over what it called as the "inaction" of the present administration in the dispute between the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Development Authority. At the same time, Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho said that, instead of forgiving the CUC's debt to the CDA, he would rather have the Legislature correct matters at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in terms of how it is being run. "You know, I am very disappointed with this administration for not taking action. You shouldn't go to court. This administration shouldn't do that. It should not make that happen," Camacho said in an interview Friday.

Sept. 17, 2002

Manamkos eyed to tutor NMI youths
Rep. William S. Torres has floated the possibility of tapping the services of the CNMI's elderly in mentoring kids and teenagers at the soon-to-be unveiled Gualo Rai Children's Park and Youth Center, a one-hectare recreational complex built for after-school and family activities. The congressman, in a letter to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, requested Secretary Juan L. Babauta to consider sending at most two participants under the federal Senior Community Service Employment Program to tutor and spend time with the children at the center when it opens this October. "We figured we could make use of the talents and the vast experiences of our manamko to guide our youth. This is a good and excellent way of utilizing the skills of our manamko and making them models for our youth," Torres said yesterday.

$500K for free and nobody's biting
Who wants $7,500 for free? Apparently, no one in the Commonwealth wants that money because, since 1997, only one person has applied for a 504 grant-one of the instruments available under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's loan and grant portfolio. The 504 grant-administered under the USDA's Rural Development Program-is virtually giving money away at $7,500 per person and the only catch is that you must be 62 years old or older to avail of it and the money has to be used for home renovation. However, an analysis of fund usage for the Western Pacific area covering the period from 1997 to 2002 shows that only one individual on Saipan has applied for the grant, and that was still in 1999. Since then, money allocated for this purpose has remained untouched at the USDA.

Maharlika

Consulate credits volunteers for success of health screening

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Consul General Medardo Macaraig, third from right, and labor representative Carmelina Velasquez, second from left, join volunteers of the 3rd Quarter Free Health Screening for OFWs for a group photo after the event held at the Marianas Business Plaza last Sept. 4.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration attributed the success of the 3rd Quarter "Free Health Screening for OFWs" to all volunteers who rendered their services to the Filipino community.

These volunteers included the Association of Filipino Pharmacists, Bayani Association, Filipino Volunteer Medical Team, Hardt Eye Clinic, and Dr. Nathan Tan.

"The services went smoothly and were facilitated by the dedication of the volunteers," said Consul General Medardo Macaraig. "The Philippine Consulate General extends its deepest appreciation to all volunteers and everyone who, through the years, have rendered valuable services to Filipinos on Saipan."

The 3rd Quarter "Free Health Screening for OFWs" was conducted on Sept. 4 at the Filipino Workers Resource Center of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

The quarterly screening, held from 7am to noon, aims to increase the awareness of Filipino workers on Saipan about diabetes prevention and control, hypertension prevention, and eye/vision pressure correction.

"It also fosters the spirit of *bayanihan* [volunteerism] and camaraderie among Filipinos on Saipan," added Macaraig.

Ronan de Ramos, president of Bayani Association, said nine members were present to provide assistance.

"We volunteer at the Consulate-sponsored health screening regularly because we want to facilitate the screening process and help our fellow Filipinos," de Ramos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Volunteers served a total of 387 Filipino workers at the free health screening, with 316 availing of the blood sugar and blood pressure checkups while the 71 had their vision tested.

"It's a high turnout. I understand also that most of them were new faces," said Macaraig when asked for comment about the event.

While it wasn't part of the schedule, Macaraig noted that they accommodated four passport applications at the screening.

The next free health screening is slated for Dec. 4.

Depositors Forums set for LBC bank clients

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. has released a partial schedule for the Depositors Forums to be conducted throughout the Philippines to discuss the procedures and requirements for filing claims with the LBC Development Bank.

The 20-unit thrift bank owned by the LBC Group was placed by the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas under receivership last Sept. 9 by virtue of MB Resolution No. 1354.

Latest bank records show that the bank has 321,516 accounts as of June 30, with insured deposits amounting to P3.73 billion (about $86 million).

Depositors Forums will be held on Sept. 19 at the Division Social Hall & Cultural Hall at Gen. Luna corner Mabini St. near Mabini Elementary School in Iloilo; Sept. 19 at the City Hall Covered Court in Laoag City; and on Sept. 20 at the APSTA Teachers' Center in Kalibo, Aklan.

The schedule of Depositors Forums for the head office and other branches as well as schedule of claims settlement operations will be announced later.

For more information and updates, visit the PDIC website at www.pdic.gov.ph, email pad@pdic.gov.ph, or call the hotlines at (02) 841-4630 and 841-4631.

Edna Encio: Your friendly video rental expert

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ask for a newly released film or an old movie and chances are Edna Espinosa Encio can instantly tell you whether they have it at Hollywood Video rental store.

"Name it and I could point out where it is, if it's available or currently rented out. I think it comes with the territory, having been doing this for several years now," Encio said in an interview at the store's main branch in As Lito.

A native of Candelaria, Zambales, Encio has been a Hollywood Video staffer since 1994, her first job on Saipan and, with a bit of luck, her last as well.

Besides renting out movies, Hollywood Video also offers console rentals, sells console gaming units, blank DVDs and CDs, as well as disc care repair.

"I've been with Hollywood Video from the time they opened their first location in Kagman, which was then transferred to As Lito," recounted Encio, who has been assigned in all of Hollywood Video's locations: As Lito, Garapan, Chalan Laulau, and Kagman.

Seventeen years and four store locations later, Encio continues to rent out a movie collection that has already reached thousands in number, more often than not alternating between the As Lito and Kagman branches.

"All staff helps in arranging the DVD casings displayed by genre and the actual discs by number," she said.

Love and family at a rental store

Encio, who studied Commerce at Adamson University, said she has been visiting Saipan as a tourist as far back as 1989. She submitted a resume to Hollywood Video and was eventually hired.

The bashful Encio revealed that it was Hollywood Video that helped her build a family. In fact, Encio's husband Gerry also worked at Hollywood Video for several years before transferring to a different employer.

"My boss was understanding enough to allow me and my husband to bring our daughter Chelsea to work so we can care for her while we were on duty. She was in a baby carrier beside us while we attend to our customers," Encio reminisced with a smile.

When pregnant with her only child, Encio said she watched many children's movies. As Chelsea was growing up, Encio said she was also able to let her daughter watch cartoon characters like Barney and animated films like *Toy Story*.

But Encio's family isn't confined to her husband and daughter. Her co-workers became her extended family. "My co-workers and I became close and we're like one big family," she said.

Even patrons treat her like a family member or a friend, too. "Nearly all our customers are nice and friendly. They would greet me even if they see me in places other than work. Some of them do the extra mile and make me feel like I'm part of their family."

Service with a smile

Encio highlights three important qualities for someone to do well when working at a video rental place.

"You have to have patience and you should know how to take care of your customers. You should learn how to smile even to annoying customers. But there are hardly any," said Encio.

CLARISSA DAVID

Edna Espinosa Encio at the As Lito branch of Hollywood Video.

Encio said her busiest times are after-school and after-office hours, when customers would arrive in droves to return DVDs or games. She noted that holidays are more eventful since people want to watch movies when they don't have work to do.

When there's hardly any activity at the store, Encio keeps herself occupied by calling customers and reminding them about due dates. She also usually receives a lot of calls on Fridays when they make new films available to clients.

Encio loves it when customers appreciate her recommended movies. "Through the years, I've learned what my regular customers want. It feels good knowing that they're pleased about it."

Encio enjoys the advantage of her job, which is being among the first few to see newly released movies.

"That's important so we can make informed recommendations to customers," said Encio, whose favorite movies include *Blue Lagoon, The Tourist, Soul Surfer,* and *Hanna*.

Encio added that it helps to have a great boss as well. "We have a boss who's nice and treats us kindly. I'm very thankful to him for this job. God has been good to me and my family."

Aircon, refrigerator repair course a smash hit among OFWs

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The ongoing Domestic Refrigeration and Aircon Mechanic training course is a huge hit among male Filipino workers on island, according to labor representative Carmelina Velasquez.

The course is held every Saturday from Sept. 3 to Oct. 8, 2pm to 5pm, at the Filipino Workers Resource Center on the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Velasquez disclosed that when they opened the registration for the course, so many people wanted to sign up that they had to limit the number to the first 70 registrants.

"There were a lot of interested Filipinos who wanted to learn so we just encouraged the others to sign up on the second batch of the course which is scheduled on the last quarter of 2011," she said

The training is being handled by aircon technician James Abuy, who works at Pacific Islands Club.

According to Velasquez, when they asked students why they want to learn this particular skill, most of them responded that they could use it to repair their own air conditioning units and refrigerators and save themselves money.

"Actually, it's not only for their personal use. They also said that they could use the training to do part-time jobs and earn extra income for themselves and their families," Velasquez told *Saipan Tribune*.

The labor representative noted that the Domestic Refrigeration and Aircon Mechanic course also comes with a three-hour business management seminar to be conducted by Jun Banadera on the last day of the training.

Velasquez said that providing training to Filipino workers in the CNMI that they could eventually use as a means to earn livelihood is in line with the Philippine government's reintegration advocacy.

"What we really want for Filipino workers is for them to become entrepreneurs and have their own businesses eventually," she said.

Computer class

According to Velasquez, the Basic Computer Operations class is another in-demand course for many Filipinos on island.

She said many of the students in the computer class are mature Filipino workers who are not yet familiar with computer technology and would like to be trained so they could communicate with their families back home through the Internet.

The ongoing Basic Computer Operations class, which will conclude on Sept. 25, has over 50 enrollees, said Velasquez.

"Although our PC units are limited, we ask them to bring laptops so everybody will have hands-on training. We're very pleased about our Filipino workers' resolve to learn and help themselves," added Velasquez.

Websites highlight small business opportunities in PH

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General is recommending several websites dealing with opportunities for small businesses in both public and private sectors as part of the Philippine government's reintegration program for Filipino workers in the CNMI.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said that several Filipino workers in the Commonwealth continue to show interest in livelihood opportunities in the Philippines

"The Philippine Consulate General hopes that, with these websites, Filipinos will find alternative sources of income to supplement the information and knowledge they have learned from the continuing series of seminars on Skills Upgrading and Livelihood in connection with the Reintegration Program for OFWs and the *Gabay sa Negosyo* videos," said Macaraig.

These recommended livelihood websites are as follows:

- Department of Trade & Industry (www.dti.gov.ph);
- DTI-Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Publications (www.dti.gov.ph/dti/index.php?p=52);
- DTI-Business Ideas (www.dti.gov.pho/dti/index.php?p=594);
- Technology Resource Center (www.trc.dost.gov.ph);
- Philippine Trade Training Center (www.pttc.gov.ph);
- Entrepreneur Philippines (www.entrepreneur.com.ph);
- UP Institute of Small Scale Industries (http://entrepreneurship.org.ph);
- Philippine Franchise Association (www.pfa.org.ph); and
- Go Negosyo (www.gonegosyo.net).

Ex-Philippine general rearrested for hiding assets

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A retired Philippine military budget chief whose plunder charges were dismissed by a civilian court was rearrested Friday by the military to serve a prior two-year prison sentence for hiding assets and holding a U.S. green card while in service.

Retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia became a poster boy for military corruption but escaped conviction on charges of stealing 303 million pesos ($7 million) when he struck a plea bargain with civilian prosecutors in May.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin told a news conference that military police picked up Garcia from his house in the capital and brought him to military prison on orders of President Benigno Aquino III, who has made the fight against corruption a cornerstone of his administration.

Corruption is an especially explosive issue in the ill-equipped and poorly paid 126,000-strong military and has sparked several insurrections by disgruntled troops in the last two decades.

Allegations of Garcia's illicit assets emerged in 2003 when U.S. Customs informed the Philippines that his sons had been caught trying to enter the United States with $100,000 in undeclared funds, some of it stashed in their luggage.

Garcia was sentenced by the military in 2006 for failing to disclose all his assets, but Aquino's predecessor, then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, failed to approve his imprisonment, Gazmin said.

In the ensuing civilian case, Garcia pleaded guilty to a lesser charge and returned assets worth 135 million pesos ($3.1 million) under the deal that secured his freedom but was met with public criticism.

A congressional hearing was held during which Garcia's former colleague testified that at least three retired chiefs of staff also pocketed huge amounts that were earmarked for troop salaries, intelligence and a military hospital. One of those implicated, Gen. Angelo Reyes, denied the allegation then committed suicide.

According to U.S. Customs, Garcia had cash and property worth at least $1.42 million in the United States, including two condominium units in New York and a house in Ohio.

The military tribunal also found him guilty of holding U.S. immigrant status while serving in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Garcia's two sons, Juan Paulo Garcia and Ian Carl Garcia, pleaded guilty to bulk cash smuggling charges and a U.S. court sentenced them in November to time served and two-year probation.

The Philippines is seeking their extradition together with their mother, Clarita Garcia, and another son.

4 killed as rival rebels clash in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines battled with a breakaway faction in fierce clashes that killed four combatants and renewed concerns over the infighting's effect on already-shaky peace talks, officials said Thursday.

Guerrillas from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the country's biggest Muslim rebel group, were passing through a village near Datu Piang township in southern Maguindanao province when they were ambushed Wednesday by followers of radical breakaway commander Ameril Umbra Kato, rebel spokesman Von Al Haq said.

Regional military spokesman Col. Manuel Luis Ochotorena said two combatants from each side were killed and five others wounded in the gunbattle. A woman hiding in her home was wounded in the crossfire.

The gunbattle raged in a coconut grove bordering Datu Piang, and the fighting forced hundreds of residents of two farming villages to flee, said Brig. Gen. Ariel Bernardo, the government representative in a joint cease-fire committee with the rebels.

Government troops did not intervene in the fighting, he said.

Philippine officials said the infighting called into question the main guerrilla group's ability to reign in their fighters to follow any accord that could be struck in the yearslong peace talks being brokered by Malaysia.

A Malaysia-led international team safeguarding a cease-fire between government troops and the rebels has begun looking into the cause of the fighting to prevent more violence, Bernardo said.

"This contributes to the deterioration of the peace and order on the ground, which is not conducive for the talks," Bernardo said, calling on the main rebel group to discipline its fighters.

Kato broke away this year and organized a new rebel group, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement, with more than 200 armed fighters.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A weak global economy has not stopped the rise of remittances from overseas Filipinos, who sent $1.7 billion in July—up by 6.1 percent from the $1.62 billion in the same month last year.

Global slump fails to dampen remittances

» Cash sent in up 6.1 pct. in 7 months to July

By MICHELLE V. REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Remittances from Filipinos overseas continued to rise in July despite the persistent weakness of the global economy and the rise of worrisome labor conditions in some areas.

"The steady inflow of fund transfers from overseas Filipinos, despite the difficult conditions overseas, could be explained partly by the sustained demand for Filipino manpower," *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a statement.

In a report, the central bank said money sent home by Filipino migrant workers reached $1.7 billion in July—up by 6.1 percent from the $1.62 billion reported in the same month last year.

As a result, cumulative remittances for the first seven months of the year reached $11.35 billion, rising by 6.3 percent from the $10.68 billion seen in the same period a year ago.

From January to July, remittances came mostly from Filipino workers based in the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Italy and Germany.

Citing data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the central bank said remittances would likely increase further, considering the rise in job orders.

Approved job orders, which are expected to translate to actual deployment within the short term, reached 162,574 in the first seven months of the year.

Demand for Filipino workers came from various employers based in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Taiwan, Qatar, Kuwait and Hong Kong, among others.

However, the rate of growth in remittances reported in July was not as fast as central bank officials had expected.

Earlier this year, monetary officials projected a minimum 7-percent growth of remittances in 2011.

The central bank said economic problems around the world have dampened the ability of some companies to hire workers, thus tempering the growth in global demand for Filipino laborers.

These problems include the downgrade of the United States' credit rating, the debt crisis in the Euro zone, the social unrest in some countries in the Middle East and North Africa, and the natural calamities that struck Japan.

The BSP said that although these factors could have dampened growth in remittances, money sent home by Filipino migrants could still register a year-on-year growth at the end of the year.

"The favorable remittance outlook is expected to be supported by the ongoing geographic diversification of deployment of Filipino workers and efforts by the government to redeploy displaced workers in crisis-stricken countries.

Earlier this week, some Filipinos working in Syria were sent home due to the continuing unrest there which had affected businesses and employment.

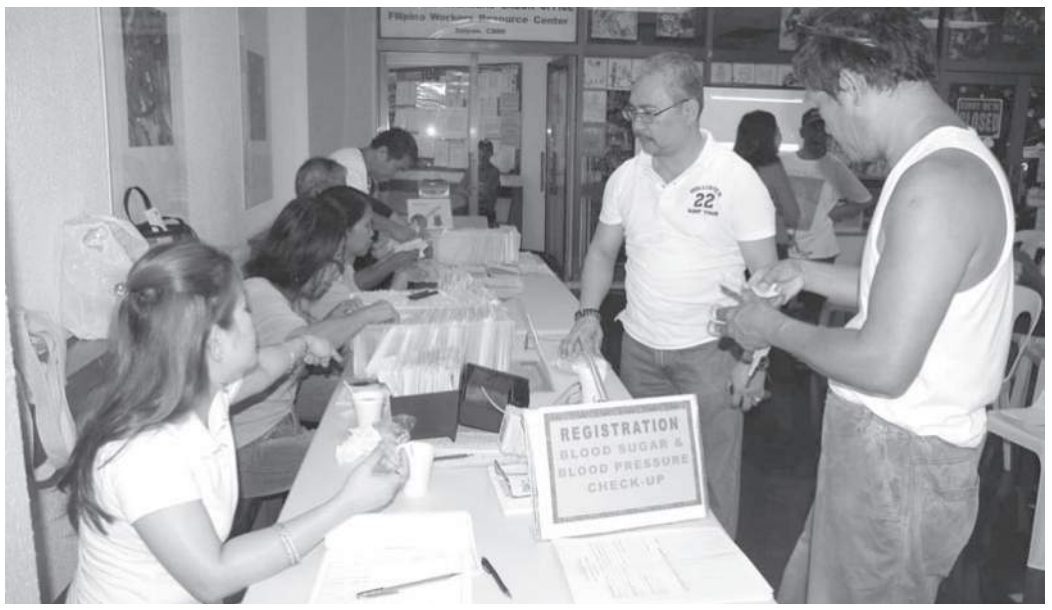
The government said labor programs are in place to help displaced Filipino workers find employment abroad.

Samu't Sari

UOG TRITON WARRIOR BATTALION CHANGE OF COMMAND

Cadet LTC Gil Quinata, Jr. assumed command of the University of Guam's Army ROTC Triton Warrior Battalion on Sept. 16, 2011 during a change of command ceremony at the UOG Field House. Quinata, a criminal justice major, assumed command from cadet LTC Daniel Lizama, who is scheduled to graduate in December 2011 with a degree in criminal justice. Pictured from left are Quinata's family members Andrew Quinata, Kenneth Kuper, Estella Mafnas Gofigan, Masae Quinata, Quinata's mother, Major Scott Bartley, Professor of Military Science, Cadet LTC Gil Quinata, Jr., Audrea Arriola, and Gil Quinata, Sr., Quinata's father.

UOG



HEALTH SCREENING

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Volunteers from Bayani Assocation assist in registering Filipino workers who availed of the services at the 3rd Quarter Free Health Screening last Sept. 4.

Dr. Nathan Tan talks to a patient during the 3rd Quarter Free Health Screening for OFWs held at the Filipino Workers Resource Center on Sept. 4.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

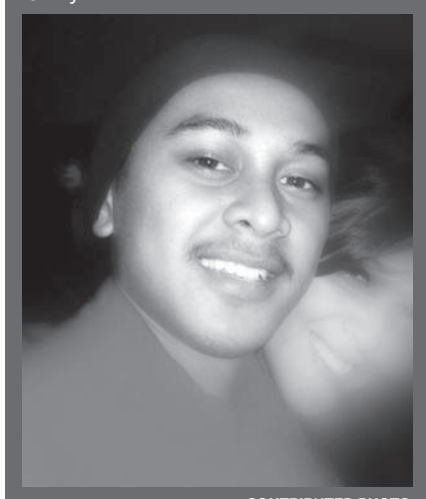
Medical volunteers smile for the camera during the free health screening for Filipino workers organized by the Philippine Consulate General office last Sept. 4.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advance happy birthday to Arlene "Lheny" Baguino will celebrate her birthday on Sept. 18, 2011. Wishing you all the great things in life, hope this day will bring you an extra share of all that makes you happiest.Have a great one! God Bless! From your Hernandez family!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Joseph Raymond Muna Berki! Wishing you the best day ever and more. May God continue to bless you and guide you everyday of your life. We love you, Joker! Cheers from your family, friends, and Naomi.

Happy 87th birthday Tang Alfonso Cabrera Reyes! We love you! Greetings come from Concepcion and Teregeyo families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 16th birthday to Kenisha Mario, who is celebrating her special day today, Sept. 17. Hope you enjoy your special day with all the loving you deserve. From Mom, Dad, and family.

Advance happy 15th birthday to Sierra Calvo! She is celebrating her birthday on Sept. 18. Coming from Chad, Brittany, Clayton, Boboy, and your family. Wish you many more years of love and happiness. Have a blessed day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Robert Omar Lieto, the greatest dad. May God bless you with his love, warmth, and courage. Wishing you a safe, healthy, and joyful birthday.

Business

Rogue trader suspected in $2 billion loss at UBS

LONDON (AP)—One man armed with only a computer terminal humbled a venerable banking institution yet again. This time it was Swiss powerhouse UBS, which said Thursday that it had lost roughly $2 billion because of a renegade trader.

The arrest of 31-year-old equities trader Kweku Adoboli in London is one more headache for troubled international banks, and fresh proof that they remain vulnerable to untracked trading that can produce mind-boggling losses.

Adoboli would join a rogue's gallery that includes Jerome Kerviel, who gambled away $6.7 billion at a French bank until he was caught three years ago, and Nick Leeson, who made so many unauthorized trades that it caused the collapse of a British bank in 1995.

The scale of those frauds rocked world finance. Banks tightened oversight rules to make sure such large sums could not be traded under the radar. But the safeguards, designed to protect the public and shareholders alike, seem to have failed.

UBS discovered irregularities in its trading records Wednesday night, and Adoboli was arrested early Thursday. Swiss banking regulators began looking into the scandal, which sent the bank's stock sharply lower.

"From the scale of this case, you can be sure that it's the biggest we've ever seen for a Swiss bank," Tobias Lux, a spokesman for Swiss regulators, told The Associated Press.

Analysts said the bank's image would be badly hurt. UBS was deemed to have recovered from the lending crisis that hammered banks in 2008 and to have improved its management of risk, said Fionna Swaffield, a bank analyst at RBC Capital Markets.

"This obviously brings this very much into question," she said.

AP

The July 26, 2011 file photo shows Oswald Gruebel, CEO of Swiss Bank UBS, speaking during a press conference announcing the second quarter results of 2011 in Zurich, Switzerland.

Details about the alleged fraud were scarce. In a terse statement shortly before markets opened, UBS informed investors that a large loss due to "unauthorized trading" had been discovered.

The bank estimated the loss at $2 billion, big enough that the bank said it might have to report a quarterly loss.

In a letter to employees, the bank said it regretted that the incident came at a difficult time: "While the news is distressing, it will not change the fundamental strength of our firm."

Adoboli was being held by London police. There was no word on whether he had retained a lawyer.

According to his profile on LinkedIn, a social networking site for professionals, Adoboli served on an equities desk at UBS called Delta One and worked with exchange-traded funds, which track different types of stocks or commodities, like gold. It is the same type of work Kerviel did for his bank.

UBS added extra security at its offices in London's financial district, and reporters were told that no additional information would be provided and were asked to leave.

Philip Octave, Adoboli's former landlord at an expensive loft near the financial district, described him as articulate and well-dressed, and said he did not cause substantial problems.

"He was very nice, very polite," Octave said. He said Adoboli was untidy and had fallen behind on the rent on two occasions but paid up after some prodding. He said there were no problems with Adoboli's references.

The rent was a hefty 4,000 pounds per month, or about $6,300. Once downtrodden, Adoboli's neighborhood has become popular with traders who can walk to work. It is popular with tourists because of its antique shops and vintage clothing stores.

The apartment, which Adoboli left four months ago, was in a handsome three-story brick building near London's storied Brick Lane—a busy street of curry houses, bars and boutiques a few blocks from UBS's modernist U.K. headquarters.

UBS

A rogue trader at the Swiss banking giant has caused it a loss of about $2 billion.

At a glance

Headquarters Zurich, Switzerland

Leadership Kasper Villiger, chairman; Oswald J. Gruebel, group CEO

Employees (2010) 64,600

Net profit (2010) $8.6 billion (7.5 Swiss francs)

Profile Global financial services firm offering wealth management, investment banking, asset management and business banking services

Source: UBS, Hoovers, Yahoo! Finance
Graphic: Pat Carr

Share price

Closing prices daily

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White House worried about Solyndra default

WASHINGTON (AP)—White House officials discussed the political ramifications of a possible default by a troubled solar energy company that received more than $500 million in federal loans, newly released emails show.

Emails released Thursday night show that Obama administration privately worried about the effect of a default by Solyndra Inc. on the president's reelection campaign.

The email, released by the House Energy and Commerce Committee as part of its investigation into the Solyndra loan, showed that Obama administration officials were concerned about Solyndra's financial health even as they publicly declared the solar panel maker in good shape.

Solyndra, which received $528 million in federal loans under the stimulus law, declared bankruptcy late last month and laid off 1,100 workers.

The Silicon Valley company was the first renewable-energy company to receive a loan guarantee under the 2009 stimulus law, and the Obama administration frequently touted Solyndra as a model for its clean energy program. President Barack Obama visited the company's Fremont, Calif., headquarters last year.

Even as Obama praised the company's plans to hire more than 1,000 workers, warning signs were being sent from within the government and from outside analysts who questioned Solyndra's viability as a "going concern."

At least three reports by federal watchdogs over the past two years warned that the Energy Department had not fully developed the controls needed to manage the multibillion-dollar loan program that provided more the loan to Solyndra Inc., a now-bankrupt solar panel manufacturer.

Emails obtained by The Associated Press show that a White House official dismissed reports about Solyndra's gloomy future. An email from Greg Nelson, a White House official who had been involved in the planning of Obama's May 2010 trip to Solyndra's headquarters, to a Solyndra executive downplayed a July 2010 news story in a trade publication that criticized the company's financial health.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Dollar access no long-term fix for Europe's crisis

LONDON (AP)—Five central banks acted Thursday to shore up confidence in Europe's financial system by giving its banks far greater access to U.S. dollars. The move buys time for banks that hold large amounts of debt issued by Greece and other financially troubled European countries. Some of these banks have had trouble paying for daily operations because other banks have refused to lend to them any more. Under Thursday's action, the banks can borrow unlimited dollars for three months, up from the current one-week limit.

Southern Calif grocery workers pave way for strike

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tens of thousands of Southern California grocery workers could go on strike as soon as Sunday night in response to inaction on health care benefits, union officials said Thursday. Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 issued a 72-hour notice Thursday night to cancel a contract extension and pave the way for a strike, union president Rick Icaza said. The union, which has about 62,000 members, is eight months into its contract negotiations.

Detroit 3, UAW extend contracts, keep talking

DETROIT (AP)—Negotiations between General Motors, Chrysler and the United Auto Workers union carried on Thursday even though bargainers missed a deadline for agreeing on a new contract. The union, which represents 111,000 workers at Detroit's carmakers, agreed to keep working under the old GM and Chrysler contracts, which expired Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. While missing a deadline could have brought a strike in past years, GM and Chrysler workers have limited ability to strike under the terms of their government bailout agreements. Talks also continued with Ford Motor Co., but little progress has been made. On Tuesday, the UAW extended its contract with Ford indefinitely.

Kona coffee dispute prompts class-action lawsuit

HONOLULU (AP)—A spat involving Safeway and Hawaii coffee growers is still brewing, even after the supermarket giant agreed to change labeling on its Kona blend coffee.

A $5 million class-action lawsuit was filed in federal court in Northern California claiming Safeway profited off the reputation of Kona coffee while selling an inferior product with very little Hawaii-grown coffee.

The lawsuit was filed Aug. 30, a day before Safeway's letter informing the Kona Coffee Farmers Association the company would change its packaging to reflect the percentage of Kona it contains. The farmers had called for a boycott of Safeway's 1,700 stores nationwide after a farmer saw the Kona blend for sale in a California store.

In an effort to protect a world-famous Hawaii product, the state's Board of Agriculture Chairman Russell Kokubun sent a letter to Safeway officials asking them to comply with a law here requiring labels to specify the percentage of Hawaii-grown coffee included in the blend. The law requires those blends have at least 10 percent Hawaii-grown coffee. But because Safeway's Kona blend isn't sold in any of the 19 Hawaii locations, Kokubun could only ask for voluntary compliance.

The farmers' battle inspired the class-action lawsuit, said Janet Lindner Spielberg, a Los Angeles attorney representing the plaintiffs.

"It affects their livelihoods and how their product is viewed in the world," she said in a phone interview with The Associated Press on Thursday.

Coffee drinker Chanee Thurston, of Benicia, Calif., is the only plaintiff named in the lawsuit, which is also on behalf of consumers who purchased the Safeway Select Kona Blend since Aug. 30, 2007. According to the complaint, Thurston bought the coffee believing it "was comprised largely or entirely of high quality coffee beans from the Kona region of Hawaii and relied on these representations in making her purchases."

She paid more money for the Kona blend than she would have for other similar coffee products made up of a large amount of non-Kona beans.

"They're really using the reputation of Kona beans. They're using it to sell something that's essentially an inferior product," Spielberg said.

A Safeway spokeswoman said Thursday the company doesn't comment on pending litigation.

Hawaii is the only place in the United States where coffee is grown. Coffee aficionados pay a premium for coffee grown in farms in the Kona district, known for its rich volcanic soil and tropical climate.

Nation

Defying orders, hero Marine saved other troops

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defying orders and tempting fate, Marine corporal Dakota Meyer charged five times in a Humvee into heavy gunfire in the darkness of an Afghanistan valley to rescue comrades under attack from Taliban insurgents. On Thursday, Meyer was presented with the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award, by President Barack Obama.

Meyer's courage during the six-hour ambush and firefight saved the lives of 36 people, both Americans and Afghans. He killed at least eight Taliban insurgents. Firing from a gun turret on top of the Humvee driven by a fellow Marine, he provided cover for his team, allowing many to escape likely death.

He was defying orders from his commanders, who told him to stay back. The kill zone, they said, was too dangerous. But the young corporal, just 21 years old at the time, knew his friends were trapped that early morning in September 2009.

"In Sgt. Dakota Meyer, we see the best of a generation that has served with distinction through a decade of war," Obama said during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

Meyer, later promoted to sergeant and now out of the Marines, is the third living recipient and the first Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The modest, soft-spoken 23-year-old now lives in his home state of Kentucky, working construction in the tiny town of Greensburg.

Obama praised Meyer for his humility and work ethic. When the White House tried to reach him in the middle of a workday to tell him his medal had been approved, he worried about whether he could take a call while on the job. So the White House arranged for the president to call during Meyer's lunch break. With a smile, Obama thanked him for taking the call.

On the eve of the Medal of Honor ceremony, Obama and Meyer met in person, chatting on a patio near the White House Rose Garden, over a beer.

Despite Meyer's heroism, four Americans died in the ambush: 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, a 25-year-old from Virginia Beach; Staff Sgt. Aaron Kenefick, 30, of Roswell, Ga.; Corpsman James Layton, 22, of Riverbank, Calif.; and Edwin Wayne Johnson Jr., a 31-year-old gunnery sergeant from Columbus, Ga. A fifth man, Army Sgt. Kenneth W. Westbrook, 41, of Shiprock, N.M., later died from his wounds.

Meyer says he has struggled with the national attention, with being recognized for the worst day of his life. He requested that memorial services for those who died that day be held in their hometowns at the same time he received the Medal of Honor.

The president assured Meyer that he had let no one down.

AP

President Barack Obama awards the Medal of Honor to former Marine Corps Cpl. Dakota Meyer, 23, from Greensburg, Ky., Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Medal of Honor

Dakota Meyer is the first living Marine since the Vietnam War to receive the Medal of Honor, the highest U.S. military award; he was recognized for his actions in Afghanistan.

Medals of Honor awarded

War/operation	Troops serving	Number killed	Medals awarded
Civil War (1861-65)	2.2 million*	364,511	**1,522**
Spanish-American War (1898)	307,000	2,446	**112**
World War I (1917-18)	4.7 million	116,516	**119**
World War II (1941-45)	16.1 million	405,399	**467**
Korean War (1950-53)	5.7 million	36,574	**136**
Vietnam War (1964-73)	8.7 million	58,209	**248**
Somalia (1992-94)	25,500	29	**2**
Iraq/Afghanistan (2001-present)	2.1 million	6,243**	**10**

*Only Union forces **As of Sept. 15, 2011 NOTE: Medals awarded include double recipients

About the medal

• Awarded to *"a person who, while a member of the Armed Services, distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved risk of life."*

• Two living people must witness the deed

• Created in 1861 to recognize Union soldiers for bravery during the Civil War

Army medal

Source: Congressional Medal of Honor Society, U.S. Department of Defense, GlobalSecurity.org, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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US Supreme Court halts Texas execution

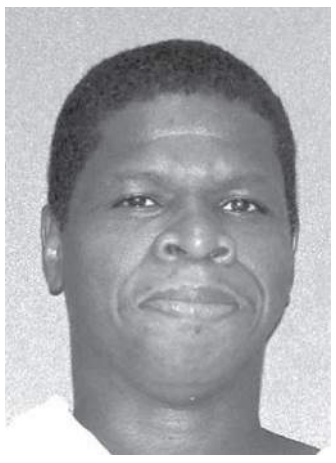
HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court halted the execution Thursday of a black man convicted of a double murder in Texas 16 years ago after his lawyers contended his sentence was unfair because of a question asked about race during his trial.

Duane Buck, 48, was spared from lethal injection when the justices, without extensive comment, said they would review an appeal in his case. Two appeals, both related to a psychologist's testimony that black people were more likely to commit violence, were before the court. One was granted; the other was denied.

Buck was sentenced to death for the fatal shootings of his ex-girlfriend and a man in her apartment in July 1995. Buck's guilt is not being questioned, but his lawyers say the jury was unfairly influenced and that he should receive a new sentencing hearing. His attorneys appealed to the Supreme Court and Texas Gov. Rick Perry to block the execution, saying a psychologist testified that black people were more likely to commit violence.

Buck's case is one of six convictions that then-Texas Attorney General John Cornyn—a political ally of Perry who is now a Republican U.S. senator—reviewed in 2000 and said needed to be reopened because of the racial reference. In the other five cases, new punishment hearings were held and each convict again was sentenced to die. State attorneys contend Buck's case was different from the others and that the racial reference was a small part of larger testimony about prison populations.

Perry is a capital punishment supporter and as frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination his actions now are coming under closer scrutiny. During his 11 years in office, 235 convicted killers in Texas have been put to death. His office said he has chosen to halt just four executions, including one for a woman who later was executed.



AP

This undated handout photo provided by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shows Duane Buck.

9/11 panel: US remains vulnerable to 'lone wolf'

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP)—Former members of the 9/11 commission warned Thursday that despite efforts during the last decade to make American cities safer from terrorist attacks, the U.S. has failed to protect itself in at least three key areas and remains vulnerable to cyberterrorism and "lone wolf" terrorists.

Committee members said the U.S. must develop better bomb detection technology, has not adequately improved radio equipment to allow police and fire departments nationwide to better communicate and has yet to develop a national identification card that could add another barrier to terrorists trying to slip into the country.

Former Illinois Gov. James Thompson said he worries that terrorists from afar could hack into computers, crippling banks, businesses and key utilities while throwing the nation into disarray.

"You read stories day after day about some 18-year-old Romanian hacker getting in and playing havoc with banks, public offices, so think about what some of the rogue state actors might be doing," Thompson said.

Thompson and eight other members of the 10-member 9/11 commission disbanded in 2004 after recommending steps the nation could make to ward off terrorism gathered on the Indiana University campus for a two-hour discussion before about 800 students and others.

The wide-ranging discussion led by moderator Ken Bode included several commissioners recalling the important role that the families of those who died in the terrorists attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania played in prodding Congress to form the panel.

Jamie Gorelick, who served as deputy attorney general under President Bill Clinton, said the families of many of nearly 3,000 people who died in the attacks closely watched the commission's work because they wanted answers that could prevent a repeat of the attacks.

"The effect of the families being very engaged in what we were doing was very profound," she said. "We asked the tough questions because we knew the people were watching us. ... We very much felt that the weight of history was on our shoulders."

Slade Gorton, a former U.S. Sen. from Washington, also credited the 9/11 families with getting both the panel formed and making sure all the key questions were addressed.

"They were on our backs the whole time. They wanted accountability. They certainly spurred our activities," Gorton said.

Some of the former commission members lamented the lack of the same nonpartisan, unified spirit that swept across the nation in the wake the 2001 attacks, saying the nation needs that same passionate commitment now with the current partisan divisions in Washington.

"I don't think we can be safe if we are as divided as we are today," Gorelick said. Commission members said many of their recommendations are now reality but that some key ones—including better communications for police and fire—are still undone a decade later.

ACROSS THE NATION

Tenn. mom tells police she smothered newborn twins

HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A young mother charged with murder has told police she hid her pregnancy, gave birth to twin sons at her family's home and killed the infants by smothering their cries so her parents wouldn't hear them. Police in the Nashville suburb of Hendersonville arrested Lindsey Lowe, 25, on Wednesday after her father discovered one baby's body in a laundry basket. According to a police affidavit, the young mother said she didn't tell her family she was pregnant, but believes she got pregnant in January and never visited a doctor. Police said on Thursday they were trying to identify the father of the twins.

Man, 19, arrested in Calif. toddler shooting

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—Police have charged a man suspected in a Southern California shooting that killed a 3-year-old girl and critically wounded a pregnant woman and her 3-year-old daughter. San Bernardino County district attorney Michael Ramos said Thursday that 19-year-old Brandon Taray Barnes of San Bernardino was charged with one count of murder and seven counts of attempted murder after authorities say he fired at least a dozen bullets at the victim's home. Ramos says Barnes faces 305 years to life in prison if convicted of all the crimes.

4 men hospitalized after bee attack in California

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Four men were hospitalized and several businesses evacuated after an attack by a swarm of an estimated 60,000 bees in the Southern California city of Santa Ana. Fire Capt. Steve Snyder tells the Orange County Register (http://bit.ly/q6KsIg) that the first victim was a man in a wheelchair who was stung more than 60 times Thursday. The three other men were stung when they saw the man on the ground struggling with the bees, and helped pull him to safety.

Asia

Suicide bomber kills 31 at funeral in Pakistan

SHINA SAMAR BAGH, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber attacked the funeral service Thursday of a Pakistani tribesman opposed to the Taliban, killing 31 people, police said, two days after Taliban gunmen killed four children from another district in conflict with the militant network.

The blast during the ceremony in the Lower Dir region, 15 miles (25 kilometers) west of the Afghan border, wounded 75 people.

The bomber struck as around 200 mourners were attending the funeral in the Shina Samar Bagh village, police officer Sher Hassan Khan said.

Another police officer, Salim Marwat, said the attacker hid in a nearby field and then ran toward the graveyard shouting "Allah Akbar!"—the Arabic phrase meaning "God is Great" that is also a Muslim rallying cry—and then detonated his bomb.

Witness Gull Rehman said he saw the attacker, who was killed in the bombing, describing him as a man with a long beard. Rehman said he was knocked down by the blast but he was able to get up and help transport the injured to hospitals.

Later, police officers searched for parts of the bomb on the blood-soaked field, strewn with abandoned sandals. The funeral was for Bakhat Khan, who was a member of a local "lashkar" or militia that is opposed to Taliban rule in the region, police said. He died Wednesday night.

The tribesmen in the northwest have formed several such militias, for which they typically receive some government funding. They have had some success at stopping militant infiltration but are routinely struck by revenge attacks.

Many of the bloodiest bombings of the last three years have targeted "lashkar" members or their families.

On Tuesday, Taliban gunmen killed four children as they were returning from school close to the main northwestern city of Peshawar. The insurgents said the attack was aimed at stopping locals there supporting a tribal militia that is fighting them.

Around 35,000 people have been killed in militant violence in Pakistan since it began in earnest in 2007.

AP

Toes of a Lower Dir suicide bombing victim are tied up after his death at a local hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan on Thursday, Sept 15, 2011.

China bullet train crash probe blames signals

SHANGHAI (AP)—An investigation into a deadly bullet train crash in China has found that faulty signaling systems and mismanagement were mainly to blame, reports said Friday, though the accident was triggered by a lightning strike.

China's State Council, or Cabinet, is reviewing the findings from the probe into the July disaster, which killed 40 people, injured 177 and prompted checks for the entire bullet train program, the Caijing financial magazine and other reports said.

The lightning strike caused one bullet train to stall and a sensor failure allowed a second train to keep moving on the same track and slam into it. The Daily News newspaper cited experts warning that the faulty signaling systems are still in use at dozens of stations along high-speed rail lines.

The draft report for the investigation was due to be finished by Thursday. Caijing cited one of the experts participating in the probe, Wei Zhen, as confirming that it had been completed. But it said Wei, a professor at the Hefei University of Technology, did not reveal details of its findings.

The Daily News, reiterating earlier reported findings, said the crash occurred because a signal that should have turned red when lightning stalled the first train stayed green. Railway staff also failed to notice something was wrong.

The Beijing National Railway Research & Design Institute of Signals and Communications Co., which made the signal, has publicly apologized after the crash.

Although the railways are rushing to fix the faulty systems, some experts believe train services should be stopped until all the problems are fixed, the Daily News reported.

It cited an unnamed expert saying that the crash occurred because of an unusually heavy lightning storm and that the signals normally should work. Whether they would be replaced would depend on a variety of factors, including cost, it said.

"There were also many problems with management and coordination and some of the workers are not well qualified," the Daily News cited the report as saying.

However, assigning responsibility for the mismanagement is proving controversial it added.

The Wenzhou crash was a heavy blow for the showcase high-speed railway program and has invigorated public criticism over the costs and speed with which it has been rolled out.

It also precipitated a month-long inspections of dozens of projects and 3,700 miles (6,000 kilometers) of bullet train lines.

China has 13 high-speed railways in operation, with 26 under construction and 23 more planned, although approvals of new projects were frozen following the Wenzhou crash.

Earlier plans called for expanding the network to 10,000 miles (16,000 kilometers) of track by 2020.

Ma's party seizes on US official's Taiwan comments

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou's party moved quickly Friday to take advantage of comments made by a senior U.S. official casting doubts on his rival's ability to maintain stable relations between the democratic island and mainland China.

A report in the Financial Times newspaper cited the unnamed U.S. official as saying that Tsai Ing-wen, Ma's opposition in January's presidential election, had created "distinct doubts about whether she is both willing and able to continue the stability in cross-strait relations the region has enjoyed in recent years."

Since taking office in May 2008, Ma has lowered tensions across the 100-mile- (160-kilometer-) wide Taiwan Strait to their lowest level since Taiwan and China split amid civil war in 1949.

His policy of bringing the sides closer through commercial interaction has won widespread praise in Washington. While the U.S. transferred its recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979, it remains Taiwan's most important foreign partner, and has hinted it could come to its aid if China ever used force in an attempt to realize its 60-year-long goal of returning Taiwan to the fold.

Tsai is currently in the U.S., where she met with administration officials earlier in the week and also gave a speech on relations with China. In her speech she tried to offer assurances that she would not replicate a predecessor's pro-independence, anti-China line if she is elected.

Reacting to the U.S. official's statement, Chen I-hsin, a spokesman for Ma's Nationalist Party, said it reflected "the doubts most Taiwanese have over Tsai's cross-strait policy, that she has only wishful thinking about the mainland."

Chen said that Tsai's rejection of the 1992 consensus—a deliberately vague formulation that recognizes China and Taiwan are the same country and which allows the two sides to cooperate—shows the insincerity of her claims that she will work with China in an effective manner.

"She wants the mainland to understand her policy but does not make enough effort to understand the other side," Chen said.

In response to a question about the anonymous official's comments, U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner reiterated long-standing U.S. assertions that it will steer clear of Taiwanese internal politics.

"We strongly support Taiwan's democracy and the will of the Taiwanese people to choose their leaders in the upcoming election," Tomer said. "Our only interest is in free, fair and open presidential elections. We don't take any sides."

But that statement failed to mollify the Tsai camp, which must now contend with the burden of a senior American official having cast doubts on Tsai's ability to deal effectively with the most sensitive issue Taiwan faces—and the issue that will probably have more influence on the upcoming elections than any other.

Speaking in Washington on Thursday, Tsai's spokeswoman Hsiao Bi-khim said the official's comments "subvert every assurance we were given over the past few days that the United States government would remain 'neutral' regarding Taiwan's election."

ASIAN BRIEFS

China arrests more than 2,000 in gang crackdown

BEIJING (AP)—China's security body says it has arrested nearly 2,200 people as part of a nationwide crackdown on gang-related crime. A report posted Friday on China's Ministry of Public Security website says police in 11 regions have arrested 2,182 suspects and uprooted 270 gangs since Sept. 1. The state-run China Daily newspaper says the campaign has been aimed at cracking down on corruption, gambling and other gang-related crimes.

Thailand, Cambodia agree on easing border tensions

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The leaders of Cambodia and Thailand have agreed that troops along their disputed border should meet regularly to ease tensions and withdraw from a temple area as ordered by an international court in July. Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong says that Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen made the agreement Thursday afternoon in Phnom Penh. Hor Namhong called the meeting a big step in improving ties.

Japan hunts 195 whales in northwest Pacific Ocean

TOKYO (AP)—Japan says it has caught 195 whales in the Pacific Ocean this season under a research program opposed by activists who call it commercial whaling in disguise. Japan's Fisheries Agency said Thursday that the fleet harvested 49 minke, 95 sei and 50 Bryde's whales and one sperm whale during its three-month Pacific expedition. Japan also hunts hundreds of whales in the Antarctic Ocean as part of its research program, which is exempt from a 1986 whaling ban. Critics say the expeditions are a cover for commercial whaling because meat from the harvest is sold for domestic consumption.

Magnitude-7.2 quake shakes Fiji

NEW YORK (AP)—A magnitude-7.2 earthquake rattled Fiji in the Pacific Ocean on Friday morning, the U.S. Geological Survey reported. No tsunami warning was issued, and no damage or casualties were immediately reported. The 7:30 a.m. (1930 GMT Thursday) quake was deep, some 368.5 miles (593 kilometers) below the surface, the USGS said. The USGS said the quake hit some 264 miles (425 kilometers) west of Nuku'alofa, Tonga, and 281 miles (453 kilometers) southeast of Suva, Fiji.

World

Soyuz lands safely in Kazakhstan, rattles nerves

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian Soyuz capsule carrying three returning astronauts from the International Space Station touched down safely Friday in the central steppes of Kazakhstan, but not without rattling nerves after a breakdown in communications.

NASA astronaut Ron Garan and Russian cosmonauts Andrei Borisenko and Alexander Samokutyayev landed some 150 kilometers (93 miles) southeast of the city of Zhezkazgan at 10 a.m. local time (0400 GMT) after 164 days in space.

Repeated calls to the Soyuz TMA-21 capsule from Mission Control in Korolyov, outside Moscow, went unanswered for several minutes, well after the craft had de-orbited. Communication was eventually established between the crew and an Antonov fixed-winged aircraft circling the landing site.

The landing was smooth in the area planned seconds before the expected arrival time.

AP

Russian cosmonaut Andrey Borisenko gestures after landing of the Russian Soyuz TMA-21 space capsule about 150 kilometers (94 miles) southeast of the Kazakh town of Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan, on Friday, Sept. 16, 2011.

Russian cosmonaut Sergei Volkov, NASA's Michael Fossum, and Satoshi Furukawa of Japan's JAXA space agency remain onboard the international space station and are due to return to Earth on Nov. 22.

There will be some taut nerves in the run-up to that return, which Roscosmos announced Friday should be preceded by a manned Soyuz launch from Baikonur on Nov. 14. Earlier this week, Roscosmos announced that the launch was to take place on Nov. 12.

Russia's space agency, Roscosmos, had to postpone that launch from October amid concerns over a failed supply mission last month. Another delay would almost certainly mean the space station would have to be left unmanned. Astronauts have been living aboard the station, without interruption, for almost 11 years.

Since phasing out the U.S. space shuttle program earlier this year, NASA is relying entirely on Russia to get American and other astronauts to the international space station.

On Friday, Russian space officials mounted their well-rehearsed search-and-recovery operation for Soyuz landings, deploying 14 Mi-8 helicopters in a holding circular pattern, as well as more than half a dozen all-terrain vehicles.

"What these helicopters do is that they sort of arrive at a targeted area and hover for a bit until they get a confirmation of exactly where the Soyuz has landed. But we actually did not hover at all today, we came straight in to the landing site," said NASA spokesman Josh Byerly, speaking from the landing site.

NATO chief urges Kosovo and Serbia to practice restraint

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP)—NATO will not allow the Balkan region to slip back into violence amid simmering tensions between Kosovo and Serbia over a border dispute, the alliance's secretary-general said Thursday.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen arrived in Kosovo for a brief visit to ease tensions a day before Kosovo authorities set up customs points on two disputed border crossings with Serbia as part of an EU-brokered deal to resume trade between the former foes.

"Let me be very clear: there can be no turning back," Fogh Rasmussen told reporters after meeting with Prime Minister Hashim Thaci. "NATO has spent 12 years ensuring stability and security we will not allow that achievement to be put at risk."

The top NATO official said recent violence in the border area that left a policeman dead was "bad for the image of Kosovo and a clear setback for the progress achieved."

The U.N. Security Council met Thursday evening to discuss the Kosovo situation at Serbia's request, said Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin.

AP

A member of the Kosovo Police stands next to piles of gravel used to block off a bridge linking the Serbian and the Albanian part of the ethnically divided town of Kosovska Mitrovica, Kosovo, Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011.

"This is a very dangerous situation," Churkin said. "This is a new danger of conflict and bloodshed."

In a worrying sign of mounting tensions, the head of the Serb Orthodox Church, Patriarch Irinej, called upon Serbs to stay on and sacrifice themselves for Kosovo.

"If you are in a situation to shed blood, know why you are doing this. It is not in vain," Irinej told Serb faithful in the Serb-run part of the ethnically split town of Mitrovica. "It is sacred martyrdom in defense of the holy land. Stay and fight on this holy land for you will not find a better one."

Serbia, which considers Kosovo the cradle of its statehood and religion, does not recognize Kosovo's independence. In addition, Serbs in the northern part of the former province do not recognize the government in Pristina, Kosovo's capital.

Kosovo's 2008 secession from Serbia is backed by more than 80 countries, but strongly rejected by Serbian ally Russia.

Speaking at a security conference in Belgrade, Serbia's president, Boris Tadic, once again warned against the planned customs takeover, saying it would "seriously endanger peace and stability" in the region.

"That solution has not been agreed between Belgrade and Pristina. This must be prevented," Tadic said.

But, late on Thursday, Thaci told reporters customs and police officers will start implementing the plan Friday with the support of NATO-led peacekeepers and the EU rule of law mission.

Fearful of Kosovo police forces rushing into the Serb-run north, Serbs unloaded truckloads of earth and rocks on the northern part of the bridge that splits the town of Mitrovica into the Serb and Albanian parts.

Thaci ordered police to enforce a trade ban on Serbia in July, but that move was met with violence by minority Serbs who reject Kosovo's independence and refuse to work with Pristina. NATO peacekeepers intervened to quell the violence and took control of the border crossings as part of a temporary deal.

Since then the two sides have agreed to resume trade and Serbia has recognized Kosovo's customs stamps, but minority Serbs that live in the northern part fear the act entrenches Kosovo's statehood and stretches Pristina's control over the territory.

UK, French leaders take the stage in Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Nicolas Sarkozy offered broad support for Libya's new rulers Thursday, promising to unfreeze billions in assets and give help in finding Moammar Gadhafi, even as revolutionary forces attempted their first significant assault on the ousted leader's hometown.

The Western leaders—the first to visit since Tripoli fell late last month—got a welcome worthy of rock stars from jubilant Libyans grateful for NATO airstrikes that helped turn the tide of the war in their favor.

Staff at a hospital in Tripoli applauded the two men as they visited patients who had been wounded in the fighting, and schoolchildren in the eastern city of Benghazi wore T-shirts that said "Generations will never forget the favors and support from Great Britain" and "Sarkozy: Benghazi loves you."

But tight security in both cities was a reminder of the fact that Gadhafi is still on the run and his supporters are holding out in three major strongholds, including his hometown of Sirte.

Gadhafi's spokesman, Moussa Ibrahim, chided the foreign leaders for their short trip, claiming that pro-Gadhafi fighters "are everywhere." He told the Syrian al-Rai TV station late Thursday, "This visit by Sarkozy and Cameron is a launch of an imperialist project in Libya." Ibrahim did not say where he was, nor where Gadhafi was hiding.

In a surprise advance, revolutionary forces entered the outskirts of Sirte, 250 miles (400 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli along the Mediterranean coast, on Thursday and were facing rocket fire, according to a member of the military council from the nearby city of Misrata, which was leading the assault.

Ali Gliwan said fighters crossed a major highway overpass at the southwestern entrance of the city of about 100,000 people, met by rocket fire from Gadhafi loyalists. Jalal el-Gallal, a spokesman for Libya's new leaders, said several thousand fighters were involved, backed with tanks and mechanized vehicles.

The fighters advanced into the city center, clashing with snipers holed up in a high-rise office tower—and with members of an elite unit of Gadhafi troops barricaded in a residence of the leader on the beach, Gliwan said. He reported four fighters on his side had been killed and seven wounded.

An Associated Press Television News reporter saw the bodies of four Gadhafi loyalists near a vehicle that apparently had been struck by NATO. Snipers fired at fighters in the center of town, although the revolutionary forces had largely pulled back to the outskirts by nightfall.

WORLD BRIEFS

Danish prime minister concedes defeat in election

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Denmark elected its first female prime minister Thursday, ousting the right-wing government from power after 10 years of pro-market reforms and ever-stricter controls on immigration. Near complete official results showed a left-leaning bloc led by Social Democrat Helle Thorning-Schmidt would gain a narrow majority in the 179-seat Parliament. "There is no parliamentary support for our government," outgoing Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen said, adding he would present his Cabinet's resignation Friday to Queen Margrethe, Denmark's figurehead monarch.

Gunmen force Mexico mayor to cancel 'El Grito'

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—Authorities in a small town in western Mexico canceled Thursday night's "El Grito" festivities ushering in Independence Day after 40 gunmen arrived at the main square threatening to attack civilians. Michoacan state police beefed up security in the town of Querendaro because of the threat, said the state police chief, Armando Soto la Marina. Mayor Filiberto Romero suspended the traditional event in which he was to cry "Viva Mexico!" from the balcony of the town hall, drawing the same shout in unison from hundreds of people gathered below.

Intense fire on Norwegian cruise ship kills 2 crew

OSLO, Norway (AP)—An intense fire in a cruise ship's engine room killed two crewmen Thursday, injured nine others and forced more than 200 passengers to evacuate a popular cruise off Norway's craggy western coast. Three rescue workers were hospitalized with minor injuries. Police said they suspected an explosion in the engine room.

Young Style

Curbs on youngest drivers may have bad side effect

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—Strong driver's license laws have led to fewer fatal crashes among 16-year-olds but with a disturbing side effect—more fatal accidents among 18-year-olds, a nationwide study found.

Many states require young drivers to get extensive experience, including driving with an adult, before getting a full license. But in most states those laws only apply to those younger than 18. The new study suggests some teens are just putting off getting a license until they turn 18 - meaning they have little experience and higher odds for a deadly crash.

"There's an incentive right now to skip out and just wait until you're 18," said Scott Masten, the study's lead author and a researcher with California's Department of Motor Vehicles. "In most states you don't even need to have driver education or driver training" if you obtain a license at 18, he said.

"I was actually bummed by my own findings—to find out we're offsetting the benefits" in young drivers so much, he said. "It was quite unexpected."

The study examined fatal crashes from 1986 to 2007 involving 16- to 19-year-olds. Results appear in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Most previous studies have also linked graduated licensing programs with a decline in fatal crash rates among young teens, but evidence on effects in older teens is mixed.

A journal editorial by researchers with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said the potential effects in older teens "is a serious issue deserving attention by researchers and policymakers." The editorial noted that New Jersey is one of the few states where graduated driver's licensing restrictions apply to all first-time applicants younger than 21. That has led to lower crash rates among 17- and 18-year-olds.

Whether these programs should be extended to include older teens merits further study, the editorial said.

Every state has some type of graduated driver's licensing program. These typically allow full, unrestricted licenses to kids younger than 18 only after several months of learning while driving with an adult, followed by unsupervised driving with limits on things like night driving and the number of passengers.

ON THE NET

- JAMA: http://www.jama.ama-assn.org
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: http://www.nhtsa.gov

The study authors analyzed fatal crash data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and information on each state's licensing programs.

Comparing states with the most restrictions versus those with the weakest laws or no restrictions, there were 26 percent fewer fatal crashes involving 16-year-old drivers but with 1,086 more fatal crashes involving 18-year-old drivers.

During the 1986-2007 study, there were nearly 132,000 fatal crashes of drivers aged 16 to 19. Nearly 20 percent involved 16-year-old drivers, while almost 30 percent involved 18-year-olds.

Evidence suggests that many 16-year-old drivers; but among 18-year-old drivers, there were 12 percent more fatal crashes. The differences are estimates, taking into account factors that would also influence fatal crash rates, including seatbelt laws, changes in minimum speed limits, and the fact that 18-year-old drivers outnumber 16-year-old drivers..

The programs appeared to have no effect on fatal crash rates for drivers aged 17 and 19.

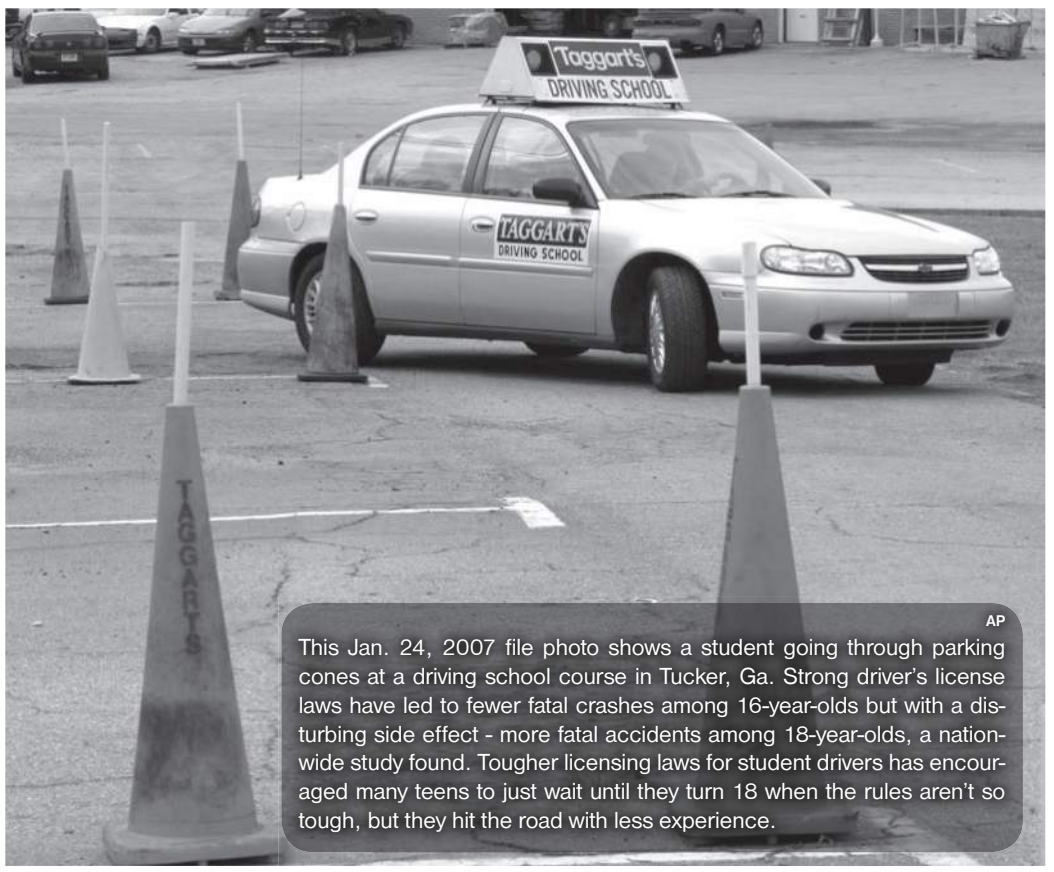
Researchers estimate that since the first graduated licensing program began in 1996, the programs have been associated with 1,348 fewer fatal crashes involving 16-year-old drivers but with 1,086 more fatal crashes involving 18-year-old drivers.

Evidence suggests that many teens are waiting until they're older to get their licenses; in California for example, only 13 percent of 16-year-olds have driver's licenses, Masten said.

In a nationwide survey of almost 1,400 teens published last month in the journal Traffic Injury Prevention, 1 in 4 who were 18 and hadn't obtained a license cited the hassle of licensing requirements as a reason.

Masten said more research is needed to determine why the fatal crash rate among 18-year-olds rose and whether an increase also occurred in nonfatal crashes.

The study confirms that graduated licensing "is doing what it was intended to do - prevent novice drivers from being in high-risk conditions before they're ready for it," said Dr. Flaura Winston, a pediatrician and traffic injury expert at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. But the results also show there's a need for strategies for the novice independent driver at any age, she said.



AP

This Jan. 24, 2007 file photo shows a student going through parking cones at a driving school course in Tucker, Ga. Strong driver's license laws have led to fewer fatal crashes among 16-year-olds but with a disturbing side effect - more fatal accidents among 18-year-olds, a nationwide study found. Tougher licensing laws for student drivers has encouraged many teens to just wait until they turn 18 when the rules aren't so tough, but they hit the road with less experience.

A craft to commemorate 9/11

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

You will soon be seeing and hearing a lot about Sept. 11, 2001.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the day foreign terrorists hijacked four airplanes in the United States and killed almost 3,000 people. Two planes crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City and one crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Passengers on the fourth plane stopped the terrorists from hitting another site and crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.

Because it has been a decade since the attacks, there will be lots of news coverage reminding us of the tragic events that occurred on a day many of you are too young to remember.

Rather than be frightened by the horrible images from that day, it is important for you to understand that while many people died in the attacks, the chance of something like that happening again is very slim.

Grown-ups try their best to protect children, and many safeguards have been put into place to make sure something like that never happens on U.S. soil again. The country has spent the past decade trying to protect anyone else from suffering in the same senseless way that occurred in 2001.

You can make a Shrink Art 9/11 pin to commemorate the occasion by following these instructions I found at http://www.makingfriends.com/shrink_art_911pin.htm. You can download a pattern at the site or enlarge the photo included in the instructions for the design.

Supplies you will need:

- Pattern.
- Shrink Art plastic sheet.
- Hole punch that makes small holes.
- Nylon monofilament.
- Number beads, 4 mm gold beads and a small heart bead.
- Jewelry craft pin.
- Tacky glue.
- Paint pens in green, red, white and blue.

MCT

To commemorate 9/11, you can make a Shrink Art 9/11 pin to commemorate the occasion.

- Black marking pen.
- Scissors.
- Cookie sheet.
- Parchment paper.

Make a copy of the pin on the website and enlarge it on a copier until it is about 7 inches from top to bottom.

Place the photo of the pin under a piece of clear Shrink Art plastic and trace around the outside of the ribbon shape and the details on the pattern.

Cut the pin out along the outside edges. Ask an adult to cut the center out at the top of the ribbon. Punch two holes on the cross piece for the beads.

Use paint pens to color the red and white stripes and add a blue section rectangle with white stars to look like a flag.

Have an adult follow the baking directions (on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper) and set it aside to cool when finished.

Push a piece of nylon monofilament through one hole on the cross piece and tie it off. Place several (as many as eight) beads on the string, add one heart bead and more beads on the other side. Tie the end to the hole on the opposite end.

Glue number beads to the cross piece and a jewelry pin to the back. Let dry.

(If you have a craft idea or question, contact Kathy Antoniotti, Akron Beacon Journal, P.O. Box 640, Akron, OH 44309-0640; 330-996-3565; or via email at kantoniotti@thebeaconjournal.com.)

POLL:

Increasing teen support for First Amendment

JENNIFER C. KERR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—More and more teenagers these days support a bedrock of American democracy, the First Amendment.

A new poll shows a sharp decline in the percentage of students who think it goes too far in the rights it guarantees, from 45 percent in 2006 to 24 percent this year.

The study was being released to coincide with Constitution Day, which commemorates the formation and signing of the Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787.

"It's important for people to be able to express themselves and share their opinions," said 16-year-old Kyle Shikashio of San Jose, Calif.

The junior at Branham High School said he doesn't think the First Amendment goes too far. But he said he tries "not to say anything really bad or something people may take offense to online, or in front of my friends or teachers or adults."

Two other Branham students, 17-year-old Alexander Richter and 16-year-old Erin Nyren, agreed that the protections of free speech, religion, a free press, and the rights to assemble and petition the government are crucial freedoms. Both have been studying the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in their U.S. government and history classes.

"It's really important to maintain the principles our country was founded on even though it's hundreds of years later," Nyren said.

The study was paid for by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Eric Newton, senior adviser to the foundation's president, says it's important to track teenagers' attitudes about the First Amendment.

ON THE NET

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation: www.knightfoundation.org

"The Supreme Court's decisions reflect long-term changes in public attitudes, and that's as true for First Amendment cases as it is for other parts of the Constitution," said Newton. "Since young people represent the future of American public opinion, then they are the real overseers of the future of the First Amendment."

The study found broad majorities of students supporting certain rights. For example, 88 percent said people should be allowed to express unpopular opinions and 70 percent agreed that musicians should be able to sing songs with lyrics that some people might find offensive.

Riddle Card

1. What is the best butter in the world?
2. When is an elevator not an elevator?
3. Why are feet like olden tales?
4. What state is round at both ends and high in the middle?
5. What is the left side of an apple pie?

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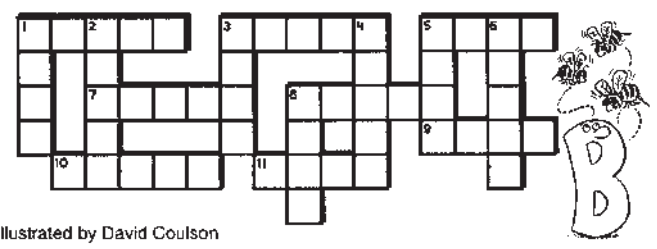
Answers: 1. The goat. 2. When it is going down. 3. Because they are leg-ends (legends). 4. Ohio. 5. The part that is not eaten.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A "B WORDS" FILL-IN PUZZLE!



Illustrated by David Coulson

Below are the 15 "B" words you'll need to complete the puzzle grid above. Use the trial-and-error method, and keep a good eraser handy!

BABEL	BALM	BLOB
BABY	BEAST	BLOT
BACON	BEBOP	BLURB
BADE	BEET	BOOM
BADGE	BLAZE	BRAVO

Answers: (Across) 1. Bebop. 3. Blurb. 5. Baby. 7. Badge. 8. Bravo. 9. Boom. 10. Blaze. 11. Blot. (Down) 1. Bade. 2. Babel. 3. Beet. 4. Beast. 5. Blob. 6. Bacon. 8. Balm.

FIG. 1

A NEAT WAGER! Draw four dots on a sheet of paper (Fig. 1). Challenge your friends to connect them up by drawing three straight lines through them without lifting the pencil from the paper (See Fig. 2 for solution.)

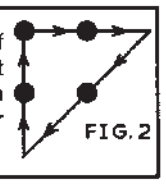


FIG. 2

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

1	KEYS	LIST
2	OPT	TEN
3	PANE	TONE
4	LEG	BLED
5	MAR	ION
6	NIB	ALLY

Answers: Keystone, option, panelist, legally, marten, nibbled

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was 20th-century American humorist Evan Esar who made the following extremely sage observation: "Anger is the feeling that makes your mouth work faster than your mind."

■ The Ghirardelli company, now renowned worldwide for the fine chocolate it produces, originally was a purveyor of mustard and spices.

■ Frank Lloyd Wright was an unusually prolific architect. During the 70 years of his professional career, he designed a whopping 500 buildings.

■ Unless you're employed in the publishing field, you might think that a typographical error is rather insignificant, something that only nitpickers worry about. Typos, however, sometimes radically change the meaning of text. Take, for example, the 1631 edition of the Bible published by the royal printers in London. A word was left out of one of the Ten Commandments, resulting in the exhortation, "Thou shalt commit adultery." This book is now known as the Wicked Bible or the Adulterous Bible. Robert Barker and Martin Lucas, the publishers responsible for the error, were fined 300 British pounds, or about $54,000 in today's currency.

■ In 1826, the eastern part of Texas declared its independence from the United States, calling itself the Republic of Fredonia.

■ You might be surprised to learn that author Norman Mailer, best known for his novel "The Naked and the Dead," majored in aeronautical engineering when he was in college.

■ If you're an arachnophobe, you may not want to read the following tidbit: There are some species of spider that dine on fish—and catch them, too.

■ For reasons surpassing understanding, in 1845, the city of Boston made it mandatory to have a doctor's prescription before taking a bath.

■■■

Thought for the Day: "A man has to live with himself, and he should see to it that he always has good company."—Charles Evans Hughes

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MAGIC MAZE ● LABOR —

A	I	F	D	A	X	V	T	Q	O	M	J	H	Y
C	A	Y	W	U	R	P	E	N	L	J	H	F	R	D
D	B	L	Z	X	V	S	K	S	R	E	D	A	E	L
T	R	Q	O	O	N	M	I	K	G	I	T	P	Z	H
F	D	B	Z	O	Y	W	R	A	V	E	A	Y	I	T
R	Q	D	I	S	P	U	T	E	R	R	O	T	N	N
L	K	N	I	H	P	R	S	C	T	E	K	R	A	M
F	U	Y	D	M	O	V	E	M	E	N	T	A	G	C
A	Z	X	A	H	W	S	E	V	U	S	R	P	R	Q
O	N	C	S	D	M	N	K	E	V	O	L	F	O	J
I	H	F	E	D	T	N	E	M	E	E	R	G	A	B

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Agreement	Dispute	Of love	Secretary
Camp	Leaders	Organizer	Shortage
Day	Market	Party	Unions
Department	Movement	Pool	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	×		+		20
+		÷		×	
	−		×		21
×		+		−	
	+		×		25
12		5		9	
1	2	3	4	5	6	6	7	9

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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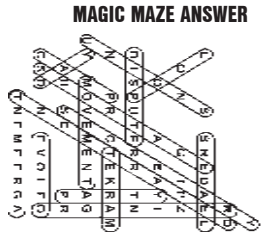
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

3	×	6	+	2	20
+	÷		×		
9	−	6	×	7	21
×	+		−		
1	+	4	×	5	25
12		5		9	

Dog eats nonstop

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Why does my dog, "Jack," eat nonstop? If I don't hide his food, he will eat it all. He's even broken into the pantry where I kept his dog food and torn the bag open to get at it. Is there something wrong with him?—Kerrie J., via e-mail

Paw's corner by Sam Mazzotta

DEAR KERRIE: It's always wise to check with your veterinarian if your pet's behavior is worrisome to you. If Jack only recently started eating nonstop, tell the vet about this behavioral change. He or she may want to take a look at Jack to rule out any possible health issues.

Many dog owners, however, find it necessary to hide the dog food and store any easy-to-open people food on high shelves where their dog can't reach. This is because many dogs will eat everything in sight for as long as they can, way past the point of being full. This doesn't just put them at risk of obesity, it puts them at risk of bloat, a condition that can be fatal.

Eating people food also puts pets at risk for other conditions—for example, onions are poisonous to dogs, as is chocolate.

Feed your dog according to the guidelines for his size and breed—often these are printed on the dog-food packaging, or you can ask the vet how much and how often he should eat. Make sure Jack cannot access any food, or the garbage, when unsupervised.

If Jack overeats again, watch him closely for signs of bloat. These include sudden behavioral change, anxiety or restlessness, frequent attempts to vomit with no success, attempts to defecate without result, a bloated abdomen that may feel tight as a drum, and a hunched-over appearance. If you observe any of these, get Jack to the veterinarian immediately—do not wait.

■■■

Send your question or comment to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Slow-cooker chicken tortilla soup

Donna's Day Creative family fun by Donna Erickson

Mention "slow-cooker meals" and your mind no doubt drifts to chilly fall and winter weather eating. Mine, too, until my oldest son, Bjorn, took charge of dinner a few nights ago and ladled up bowlfuls of his tasty slow-cooker chicken tortilla soup. Topped with crisp bean sprouts from the Asian market, cilantro from the garden and a handful of grated cheese and crushed chips, his version of Tex-Mex/Asian fusion made for healthy family fare.

It even gets better when considering the three-minute prep time factor. No need to saute the chicken or chop vegetables ahead of time. Simply let your kids open five cans of basic ingredients while you unwrap a package of fresh chicken breasts. Dump all the food in the cooker, turn it to low, and soup's on in 6 to 8 hours. It doesn't get much easier than that!

Bjorn's Slow-Cooker Chicken Tortilla Soup

2 (14.5-ounce) cans stewed tomatoes
1 (15-ounce) can black beans
1 (4-ounce) can diced green chili peppers
1 (15-ounce) can chicken broth
2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken breasts; or 1 pound for a less-dense soup

Toppings:
Grated Cheddar cheese
Cilantro
Mung Bean sprouts
Tortilla Chips, crushed

1. Place all soup ingredients in a slow cooker and stir together lightly. Cover, set slow cooker to low and cook for 6-8 hours.

2. When ready to serve, remove the cooked chicken and shred into bite-size pieces with a fork. Place the shredded chicken back in the slow cooker and stir. Cook for another hour if you wish, or ladle in large soup bowls.

3. Add toppings according to taste. Serve with a green salad and enjoy fresh fruit for dessert. Makes 6 to 8 servings

■■■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

Grill turkey meatballs with Asian flair

By SUSAN M. SELASKY
DETROIT FREE PRESS

SUSAN TUSA/DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

To quickly form the meatballs for this turkey meatball lettuce wrap recipe use a mini ice cream scoop.

Today's recipe caught my eye because of the fresh ingredients (mint, carrots, limes). And you can make it in less than 30 minutes, including rolling the meatballs.

It has Asian flair with the addition of fish sauce or nuoc cham, a salty condiment made from fermented anchovies. Look for it in the Asian foods section of the market. For this recipe, if you don't have fish sauce, use reduced-sodium soy sauce.

This recipe is a different take on the lettuce wraps that are popular at restaurants like P.F. Chang's. Instead of using cooked ground meat, you make meatballs, grill them and serve them in Bibb or Boston leaves. These lettuces, also known as butter lettuces, are softer and more pliable than the crunchy iceberg typically used for lettuce wraps. Plus, butter lettuces are cup-shaped, so they hold the contents in place neatly. And because they are softer, it's a lot easier to wrap the filling in them as well as to hold and eat them.

Don't stop at using these lettuces just for cooked meats. You can layer in thin, deli-style meats and cheeses, top with your favorite sandwich condiment and roll it all up. Or you can serve chicken, egg or seafood salads in lettuce cups.

Heads of butter lettuce are generally compact and smaller than iceberg lettuce. When ready to use, pull away each leaf, being careful not to tear it. Rinse the leaves well under cold water to remove any dirt and pat them dry.

When choosing ground poultry for this recipe, use lean or extra-lean ground turkey or chicken breast meat. Some turkey products show how lean it is on the package, and some will label it "white turkey." Color is a good indication of how lean the poultry is. If it's a lighter pink, it includes more white or breast meat. If you use the extra-lean turkey, watch it carefully because you can easily overcook and it will be dry.

Turkey Meatball Lettuce Wraps

Serves: 4 / Preparation time: 15 minutes / Total time: 30 minutes

To quickly form the meatballs, use a mini ice cream scoop.

3 limes (2 juiced and 1 cut into wedges)
3 cups shredded carrots
1/2 cup fresh cilantro leaves, chopped, or mint leaves, thinly sliced, divided
2 green onions, thinly sliced
2 cloves garlic, peeled, finely chopped, divided
1 teaspoon plus 1 tablespoon lower-sodium fish sauce, divided
1 1/4 teaspoons sugar, divided
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided
1 package (19.2 ounces) lean (93 percent) or extra-lean (97 percent) ground turkey breast
12 Boston lettuce leaves
3-4 tablespoons sweet chili sauce, optional

If using bamboo skewers, soak them in cold water. Prepare outdoor grill for direct grilling on medium-high. Or preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Place the lime juice in a medium bowl (you should have about 1/4 cup). Set the lime wedges aside.

Add the carrots, half the cilantro or mint, green onions, 1/4 teaspoon garlic, 1 teaspoon fish sauce, 1/4 teaspoon sugar and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Stir; let stand.

In a large bowl, combine the turkey, remaining 1 tablespoon of the fish sauce, 1 teaspoon sugar, 1/4 teaspoon pepper, the rest of the cilantro or mint and garlic. Shape tablespoons of the mixture into meatballs. Arrange on skewers, 1/2- inch apart, and flatten slightly.

Grill meatballs 4 to 5 minutes or until grill marks appear and meat loses its pink color and is cooked through, turning occasionally.

Divide meatballs and carrot mixture among lettuce leaves. Drizzle with the chili sauce, if desired, and serve with lime wedges.

Adapted from Good Housekeeping *magazine, May 2011 issue. Analysis based on 93 percent lean turkey without the sauce. 230 calories (27 percent from fat), 7 grams fat (2 grams sat. fat), 15 grams carbohydrates , 27 grams protein , 415 mg sodium , 66 mg cholesterol , 4 grams fiber .*

Cleaning up 'rusty' concrete

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: My concrete driveway has several bright-orange stains that look like rust. How did this happen, and how can I clean it up?—Jane C., Winter Park, Fla.

A: There are several ways that rust finds its way onto concrete to stain it: a metal tool left sitting on the driveway in the rain, rust washing off of a vehicle parked on it, and so on. The good news is that most rust stains can be cleaned off of concrete fairly easily.

Home-improvement stores sell an array of cleaners that specifically address rust-stained concrete. They're generally not too expensive; simply apply and clean according to the package instructions.

However, one of the most effective cleaners that will remove many rust stains is probably in your kitchen cabinet: citric acid. It can be found in the spices section of most grocery stores, typically sold as "sour salt." Many powdered drink mixes contain citric acid, which means, in theory, that you could take a non-staining drink mix like, say, lemonade flavored Kool-Aid, mix it with a couple quarts of water, pour onto the stain, scrub with a coarse brush and rinse clean.

You also can use plain white vinegar—straight up or diluted half and half with warm water—or even lemon juice to tackle rust stains.

One thing you should never use to remove rust stains on concrete is bleach. It can make the problem worse.

If the driveway is extensively stained, or if repeated scrubbing doesn't clear up the problem, contact a driveway specialist. He or she will likely recommend the driveway be resurfaced and sealed to correct the problem and prevent it from happening again anytime soon. If that's the case, ask for a written quote before agreeing to any work.

HOME TIP: To prevent future rust stains, keep outdoor concrete clear of metal tools, and repair areas where water leaks or drains across the concrete, particularly from metal structures like carports or gutters.

■ ■ ■

Q: While organizing the attic, I noticed there was an area of the floor that looked like it had gotten wet recently. I looked at the roof above, but did not notice any holes. But there is a little water streak down the plywood. Is this a serious problem? -- Carol H., New Bedford, Mass.

A: If you address it quickly, it will not become a serious problem. Minor leaks in a roof can be patched fairly quickly. They're often caused by damage to the shingles on top of the roof, which occurs over time due to debris strikes, ice buildup or just general stress from extremes of hot and cold.

During the next rainstorm, go into the attic and note where the water is seeping. Follow the trail of water upward until you can see an entry point. That is the likely area of damage. Mark the spot clearly and brightly for now (put a piece of bright tape or tack a bright piece of paper over the spot).

To repair, you'll need to be able to access the rooftop safely, with safety harness, rope and ladder, and have a helper. If you're not able to do this, contact a roofing professional to do the repair.

If you can do it yourself, first remark the leaky area. From the attic, take a large (ten-penny) nail and drive it straight upward through the bottom layer so that it juts out past the shingles above. (Don't sink it in all the way, as you'll need to remove it later.)

Gather your repair materials: spare shingles, roofing cement, roofing nails, hammer and pry bar. Make your way safely to the rooftop, with your helper minding the ladder and safety rope. Locate the upward-jutting nail.

Remove the nail and patch the hole with a dab of roofing cement.

Inspect the shingle for damage. If it is very minor, like a ripped edge or small crack, it can be patched with roofing cement and a piece of spare shingle cut to fit. Or, you can completely remove the shingle, sliding it out carefully from the ones above and to the side, and slide in a replacement. Tack down on the top and sides with dabs of roofing cement. Tap in roofing nails along the top of the replacement shingle, holding the shingle above it up, then press the shingle above it back down into place. Secure the bottom of the shingle with a couple small dabs of cement underneath the flap.

HOME TIP: August is prime time for roofing repairs, as the hot and relatively dry days allow for plenty of work to be done and for roofing materials to set correctly.

Send your questions or comments to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

DOLLAR$ AND SENSE

Going organic

By DAVID UFFINGTON
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Organic food often comes with a hefty price. It is possible, however, to find food that's good for us at a cost that isn't going to break the bank.

The first step is to learn the differences between "100 percent organic," "organic" and "70 percent organic." Go online to www.usda.gov and put "National Organic Program" in the search box. Look for "Understanding Organic."

Decide how to spend your food money to give your family the best health benefit for the dollar. If you can bake your own breads, then you might want to limit your organic shopping to fruits and vegetables that you can't grow. Or if you can grow those, but can't have chickens, spend your money there.

There's an online list, sometimes called The Dirty Dozen, of 12 foods that have high rates of pesticide contamination, even after being washed: nectarines, celery, pears, peaches, apples, cherries, strawberries, imported grapes, spinach, potatoes, bell peppers and red raspberries. Consider spending your money on organic versions of those, instead of the thicker-skinned fruits and vegetables that have a lower rate of pesticides: asparagus, avocados, bananas, broccoli, cauliflower, corn, kiwi, mangoes, onions, papaya, pineapples and sweet peas.

Buy in-season. See what's at the store or market, and plan your menus around the organic foods that are available.

Check out Local Harvest [www.localharvest.org] and put in your ZIP code for farmers markets and community supported agriculture, CSA, farms near you. In addition to fresh fruits and vegetables, many of these markets carry meats, baked goods, herbs and organic teas. Ask before you buy: Even if a farmer doesn't yet have his official "organic" certification, it could well be that he's in the process of doing so and hasn't sprayed any pesticides.

Buy pasta, nuts and dried fruit in bulk if you have a means of storage. Use your freezer to store other foods.

Shop around and compare prices between CSAs, farmers markets, co-ops, buying clubs and your grocery store.

If necessary, take it one step at a time as you learn which items you can leave out of your standard menu and replace with organic choices.

Ask for discounts, even at a farmers market, especially if buying in bulk.

The benefit to you in moving toward organic? The food you put on your table tonight might have been picked a few miles away this morning.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Life & Style

‘X Factor’ goes X-rated as singer’s pants drop

LOS ANGELES (AP)—On “American Idol,” a contestant performed “Pants on the Ground.” On “The X Factor,” a singer dropped his pants to the ground and sent Paula Abdul running for cover.

The man auditioned for Fox’s new talent contest by performing his original song “I’m a Stud,” pulling his pants down and dancing onstage in front of an audience that responded with boos. In a clip shown at a preview Wednesday night, a graphic of the show’s stylized “X” was superimposed over his crotch.

The man, identified as Geo, may have thought underwear was optional.

A grimacing Abdul got up and retreated backstage. Fellow judge Nicole Scherzinger covered her eyes and then, like a spectator at an accident scene, took a peek from between her fingers. Panelist Antonio “L.A.” Reid didn’t mince words, calling the display disgusting, upsetting and offensive.

“Get him out of the building, please,” Reid concluded.

After the man was shooed offstage and Abdul returned, series creator and judge Simon Cowell chided her for deserting her colleagues. She responded that she didn’t want to look at a “hairy ass.”

The scene was part of a preview Wednesday night of segments from two episodes of “X Factor,” which debuts 8 p.m.-10 p.m. next Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 21-22, on Fox. The series is intended as a fall companion to the network’s perennial spring hit, “American Idol.” A brief shot of the contestant, standing pantless, was included in a promotional trailer aired Sunday on Fox.

In 2010, would-be “American Idol” contestant “General” Larry Platt performed his song “Pants on the Ground” to protest the trend of saggy, low-riding pants.

Like “Idol,” “X Factor” is based on a British series and showcases singers ranging from the talented—a 13-year-old with a big voice among them, according to the “X Factor” preview—to the absurd. Unlike “Idol,” “X Factor” allows groups, a wider age range of singers and will assign judges to mentor contestants.

Much is riding on the show: Fox is making it its centerpiece fall entry; Cowell left a comfortable spot at “American Idol” to bring his “X Factor” to America; and the winner gets $5 million and a record deal.

AP

In this image released by Fox, judges, from left, Nicole Sherzinger, Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul, and L.A. Reid attend “The X Factor” screening at the Arclight Cinerama Dome on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011 in Los Angeles.

Grandparents with webcam become new online stars

McMINNVILLE, Oregon (AP)—It slowly began to dawn on Esther and Bruce Huffman that perhaps they were being filmed.

“Warning,” the gray-haired, bespectacled grandmother reads off the screen. “You must stop recording before trying to close cyber link.”

Pause. “Maybe this recorded us,” says the neatly coiffed, rosy-cheeked man next to her.

“Aw, gee,” Esther replies.

The realization came toward the end of a nearly three-minute video that has launched the retired Oregon couple to YouTube stardom. They had unwittingly captured their first attempt at learning how to work the webcam on a new laptop.

The Huffmans met a couple of years after Bruce’s first wife died, at the retirement complex in which they both lived. She liked his vivacity; he thought she would be a sturdy rudder to his boundless energy.

In the video, she plays the straight man as she tries to make a serious attempt at the request of their children and grandchildren. He’s bouncing in his seat next to her, making monkey faces.

Esther had bought a laptop computer late this summer. Already a Facebook user, she was asked by her family to try recording videos for the amusement of the grandchildren.

In mid-August, the couple sat in front of their laptop, fiddling with the controls of a video recording program. Somehow, they got the program running. Somehow, they pressed “record.”

It was filming as Bruce jokingly fretted about his appearance. “I’m so sad, Esther, I’m so sad,” Bruce says with a sad-clown expression. “Look at all the wrinkles up there and the cracks in my head.”

There is singing.

“Hello my darling, hello my baby, hello my ga-doh-go,” Bruce intones, sliding from Looney Tunes into gibberish. “Lala-te-ki-ka.”

Bruce makes faces, leaning close to the laptop screen and blowing out his cheeks: “Now look at the monkey. That’s a pretty good monkey!”

When the couple realizes the webcam might have been recording their antics, they stiffen. But their 21-year-old granddaughter, Mindy, saw the video’s potential. With their permission, she uploaded the file, dubbing it “Webcam 101 for Seniors.” By Thursday, it was nearing 3 million views on YouTube.

In the crush of media that has descended on them, the Huffmans struggle to explain what made the video so compelling. After all, it was just a couple minutes of two Oregonians in a retirement community doing ... well, not much.

Perhaps, Esther said, people were attracted to its joy. We’re under such a negative news barrage daily, she said. War, crime, natural disasters—wouldn’t people rather watch an 86-year-old man singing Looney Tunes?

Lynette Paulson, Esther’s daughter, ventured that the unmitigated happiness in the video resonates with viewers.

“They want to see that joy,” Paulson said. “It just brings you up.”

Or maybe, said 27-year-old grandson Luke Erickson, it shows the possibility that age doesn’t mean infirmness or discontent, but that two spectacularly unself-conscious people eight decades on are capable of happiness and supporting and loving each other.

“I don’t know how to do this,” Esther complains in the video.

Bruce leans in to her.

“Whatever you do,” he says, “you do fine.”

AP

Bruce Huffman makes a monkey face as his wife Esther laughs Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, in McMinnville, Ore.

WH crasher husband ‘devastated’ wife left

FRONT ROYAL, Va. (AP)—Celebrity White House gate crasher husband Tareq Salahi is glad his wife, Michaele, is OK but heartbroken that she’s left home to be with another man, reported to be lead guitarist for the rock band Journey, the couple’s attorney said Thursday.

Tareq Salahi had reported his wife missing Tuesday night, telling authorities in Virginia he feared she had been kidnapped. Authorities, however, said ex-reality TV personality Michaele Salahi told them she was fine and didn’t want to return home. Then celebrity website TMZ reported that a representative for Journey said she was safe and with guitarist Neal Schon.

“Tareq is devastated but he is relieved to know that Michaele is safe,” Salahi attorney David Silek told ABC’s “Good Morning America. “That was his first concern.”

Silek said it’s premature to say if the couple would get a divorce.

“He’s so devastated there’s not a goal other than trying to figure out what is going on at this time,” Silek said of Tareq. “If there’s an opportunity for reconciliation, that’s something they can and ought to explore.”

Calls to Silek and to Journey’s agent were not immediately returned. An Associated Press call to a number for Tareq prompted a recorded message that the line could not accept additional calls.

Diane Dimond, who wrote the book “Cirque du Salahi” about the couple, told the morning show that Michaele had been frustrated with her husband and that she had a previous relationship with Schon.

“She told me, in effect, that he was one of the loves of her life,” Dimond told the show.

Warren County Sheriff Daniel T. McEathron told the AP that deputies believed Tareq’s report was genuine and that authorities did not plan to press charges.

“We believe the Mr. Salahi did not know where his wife was. We know that she was not home, and we know that she was where she wanted to be. As of right now we don’t think it’s any different than the way it came in.

“If we know that this may have been some type of ... false complaint, I assure you that we would look into it a whole lot closer in a different direction because a lot of man hours were spent yesterday to work on this.”

FBI spokeswoman Dee Rybiski also said no charges were likely because “there’s nothing to indicate any violations of federal law occurred.”

McEathron said the sheriff’s department had investigated complaints from the couple about comments they found threatening posted on Facebook “for quite a while now,” but that they hadn’t found any viable threats.

“Some of it is maybe that the person didn’t really threaten them but they took it as a threat,” he said.

But McEathron said deputies weren’t concerned that the threats had led to a kidnapping because they were able to talk to Michaele Salahi within minutes of her husband’s report and determine that she was unharmed.

“They had a good long conversation so it wasn’t like she was being prompted to say any one thing, so we didn’t feel that played a part in it at all at that time,” he said.

The Salahis burst onto the scene in 2009 when they crashed a White House state dinner. Michaele Salahi was a cast member of the reality show “Real Housewives of D.C.” last year, but the show was canceled after one season.

The couple posted a picture of Twitter of themselves with Schon and other band members last week. TMZ posted video of the couple partying with Schon at their embattled winery last year.

Aside from the couple’s gate crashing troubles and failed reality television attempt, they also have experienced business problems. The winery filed for bankruptcy, and its assets are scheduled to be auctioned off on Sunday. Michaele Salahi also released a single entitle “Bump It” that was not successful and was thrown off the reality show “Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew” when it became apparent she wasn’t addicting to anything.

Charlie Sheen says he's not mad at 'Men' anymore

NEW YORK (AP)—Charlie Sheen seems to have buried the hatchet.

Appearing on Thursday's "Tonight Show," the former star of "Two and a Half Men" radiated a forgiving mood toward his old workplace. Asked by host Jay Leno if he's still angry at the sitcom's producers and network, he said no: He would have fired himself had he been in their shoes. Then he added with a laugh, "Well, maybe not like they did."

Sheen was dumped last March after the actor railed against his bosses, and they blasted him for his unpredictable behavior as a drug-abusing, reckless playboy.

Sheen

"It was bad," Sheen said, summing up the clash, "and I own my part in that, and I just want to make everything right."

Asked why he thought he should have been fired, Sheen explained, "I should have been a little more responsible about the condition I was showing up in."

He told Leno he has not had any contact with his former castmates, but said he felt no animosity toward them. His formerly strained relationship with his father, actor Martin Sheen, is "totally repaired," he said. "We're buddies again."

On Monday, the hit CBS comedy returns for a new season with Ashton Kutcher as Sheen's replacement.

He praised Kutcher as being "accomplished," and when asked if he had any advice for his successor, he said he'd like to give him a hug and tell him, "Make me proud, dude."

Sheen is also being interviewed on Friday's edition of "Today." These appearances plug a Comedy Central roast of him airing on Monday.

Miller says phone hacking made her paranoid

NEW YORK (AP)—Phone-hacking victim Sienna Miller says she planted false stories with friends in an attempt to figure out why intimate details of her life were showing up in British tabloids.

Miller, an actress and former girlfriend of actor Jude Law, told NBC's "Today" show in an interview that aired Thursday that stories about her appeared in the newspaper that only her mother, sister, boyfriend and best friend knew about.

"At the time I was incredibly paranoid," she said.

Miller reached a 100,000 pound ($161,000) settlement with the tabloid News of the World, which had hacked into her cell phone messages.

She accused some of the people close to her of selling stories to the press, she said. She'd plant the false stories to see if they appeared in the newspaper, and thus expose a person betraying her, but the false stories never appeared.

Miller said she also became suspicious when it became clear there were a large number of voice mail messages that friends said they'd left and she never received.

Miller

"Everything is compromised enormously," she said. "It had a huge impact on relationships, friendships and my career."

Once it became clear to her what was going on, Miller said she was still reluctant to take on Rupert Murdoch's media empire for fear that it could damage her career.

"It was just too horrendous to not expose, and I was really happy that I did," she said.

Emma Thompson writing new 'Peter Rabbit' book

NEW YORK (AP)—Academy Award-winning actress Emma Thompson is writing a new "Peter Rabbit" story.

The book is to be published by Penguin in September 2012.

Penguin announced Thursday the book will be called "The Further Tale of Peter Rabbit." The book will be set in Scotland, where Peter Rabbit creator Beatrix Potter visited as a child.

Thompson has worked on other projects for young people, including "Nanny McPhee," her film adaptation of Christianna Brand's Nurse Matilda stories.

Thompson won an Oscar for her leading role in 1992's "Howards End." She won a second Oscar in 1996 for best adapted screenplay for "Sense and Sensibility."

Winslet butchered a chicken on Emmy noms day

LOS ANGELES (AP)—While many aspiring Emmy nominees were in hair and makeup preparing to talk to the press when the nominations were announced in July, Kate Winslet was givin' a chicken a lickin'.

Winslet

"Nobody knows this, but I didn't really know that the nominations were coming out that day," the 35-year-old actress said by satellite from London last week while promoting her film "Contagion."

Winslet starred in the HBO miniseries "Mildred Pierce," based on the 1941 James M. Cain novel, which grabbed a top 21 Emmy bids.

"I was in England, and I was doing some really great daylong cookery classes with my best friend," Winslet said. "And my best friend and I, that particular day, we happened to be doing a butchery class. And, literally, as the email came through telling me that I had been nominated and that we had received 21 nominations overall—I am not kidding you—I was hacking up a chicken. Isn't that great? I just love that story."

Winslet is nominated for lead actress in a miniseries or movie for her title role in "Mildred Pierce."

"I have never been nominated for an Emmy before. I've never been to the ceremony before," she said. "And it's a wonderful way actually to reconnect with all the people who were involved with 'Mildred' who I haven't seen in actually for over a year now. So, I'm really, really excited."

"'Mildred' was a very special part of last year for me and for all of us who were involved," she said. "And it was a really extraordinary group of people who all stuck together for 17 weeks of really hard slog. So, you know, all the hard work paying off in these nominations is just fantastic."

The 2011 Primetime Emmy Awards will be presented Sunday in Los Angeles and broadcast on Fox.

"Someone is making me a very lovely dress and I'm, I'm not very good at being prepared this far out," she said. "I usually go into full-on organizational preparation mode about 48 hours beforehand. And somehow it sort of all comes together. So I'm hoping that it will be all right. And I'm really looking forward to it."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Sean Penn's group receives grant to house Haitians

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The Haiti aid group run by Hollywood actor Sean Penn says it has received a $2.25 million grant to help more than 500 families displaced by last year's earthquake move back home. Benjamin Krause from Penn's relief group J/P HRO says the money from the World Bank will be used for rent subsidies, repairs to houses and building new homes and solar-powered water kiosks. The project is part of a $95 million effort financed by the World Bank and Haiti Reconstruction Fund that is aimed at helping more than 500,000 people move back into redeveloped neighborhoods. Penn co-founded the relief group shortly after the January 2010 earthquake and has overseen maintenance of a large settlement camp on a golf course. He's also testified in Washington.

Brad Paisley to release first book Nov. 1

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country superstar Brad Paisley is set to release his first book on Nov. 1. It's called "Diary of a Player" and shows how the guitar gods of country, blues and rock `n' roll have shaped his life. Paisley tells The Associated Press he can't imagine his life if he never learned to play the guitar. His grandfather gave him his first six-string at age 8. Paisley is the reigning Country Music Association entertainer of the year. He has sold over 11 million albums and charted 20 No. 1 singles, including his most recent duet with Carrie Underwood, "Remind Me." The book is co-written with Rolling Stone contributing editor David Wild and published by Howard Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster.

'The Fonz' Henry Winkler gets British honor

LONDON (AP)—The Fonz has earned some respect. Henry Winkler, the actor best known for his work on the sitcom "Happy Days," has been made an honorary member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his work helping children with dyslexia. British Ambassador Nigel Sheinwald presented the award to Winkler at the Washington Embassy on Wednesday. Winkler's dyslexia was diagnosed as an adult. He has toured schools in Britain in the last two years to talk about the condition, and has written books about Hank Zipzer, a boy with dyslexia. Winkler says he is flattered to have his work recognized, and added that he hoped "to continue showing kids that their learning difficulty isn't a disability."

Student needs a crash course in recognizing teen Romeos

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a high school sophomore who is usually pretty happy. I have amazing friends and a great family, and I make good grades. I have liked "Michael" for three years, and recently he has begun to show more of an interest in me. He's polite to everyone, but my friends have noticed he pays more attention to me than to anyone else.

Well, two months ago Michael suddenly started dating another girl. They're totally addicted to each other, and I'm crushed. I am also confused, because when she isn't around, Michael flirts with me again. I try to avoid him and not flirt back, but it seems to keep happening. I never would have expected this from such a sweet guy. What should I do?

HEARTBROKEN HIGH SCHOOLER

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Frankly, the first thing you should do is put your guard up. Then take a step backward so you can clear your head and view Michael more objectively because right now you are "smitten."

Michael appears to have a short attention span. Two months ago it was you, now it's some other girl—unless she isn't around. Your sweet guy is showing signs of being a budding Romeo, so put your broken heart back together and recognize that if you want a boyfriend you can depend on, Michael isn't the one.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We just moved into a new neighborhood and a cute little boy came to our door selling coupon books. My husband answered the door and was nice to the boy, but told him we weren't interested in buying the book. The child hung his head and walked away slowly.

As the days have gone by, we feel bad about not buying the book from him, but we didn't need or want it. I found out he and his family live two doors down, and it is uncomfortable as we drive by their house. They never wave or acknowledge us, nor have they ever come down to introduce themselves or say hello.

Should we apologize to our neighbors for making their son feel bad, or should we just let it go?

ASHAMED IN HOUSTON

DEAR ASHAMED: I see no reason for you to apologize for not buying the coupon book. The books are not helpful for everyone. By offering them for sale, the boy is getting sales and life experience, and learning that when someone refuses an offer, the "rejection" isn't personal; it's part of the process. Rather than apologize, why not go to the parents and introduce yourselves? I can't imagine they'd be holding a grudge over something so petty.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm eight months pregnant with my first child. It is my boyfriend's third child. I don't get along with the other children's mothers, but I want my son to have a relationship with his brother and sister. How do I go about getting this to happen?

HOPEFUL IN ARKANSAS

DEAR HOPEFUL: I applaud you for wanting your son to have a relationship with his half-siblings. Family is important, and when the children are older, it could be beneficial for them.

A way to establish a kinship with the other mothers might be to remind them that, in a sense, you're all members of the same "club." Considering their former boyfriend's history, membership may continue to expand, so it's in everyone's interest to stick together.

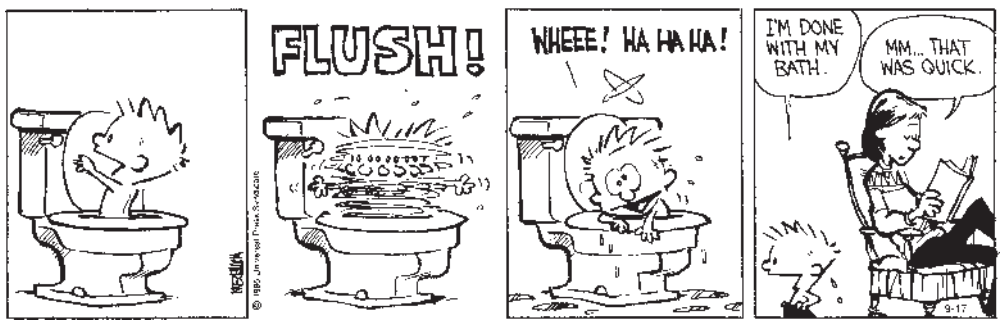
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

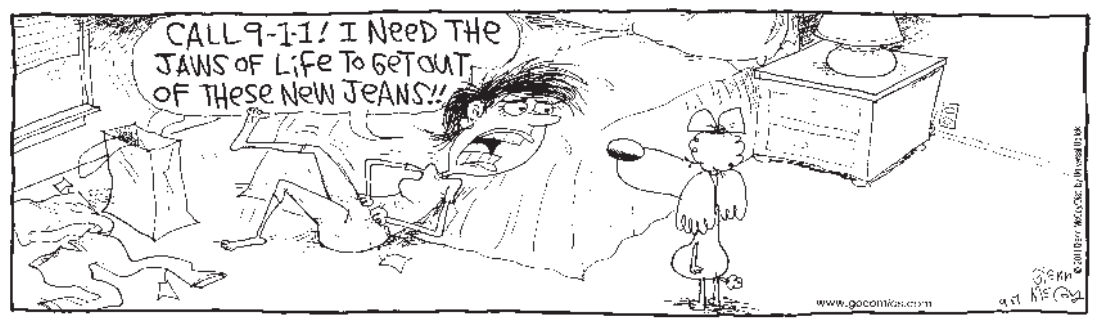
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'D LIKE A PLAIN BAGEL, TOASTED, WITH SCALLION CREAM CHEESE ON THE SIDE, PLEASE.
WHOLE-GRAIN, MULTIGRAIN OR WHITE?
UH, WHOLE-GRAIN, I GUESS.
ORGANIC CRACKED SPELT, FREE-RANGE RYE, OR FAIR-TRADE WHEAT BERRY.
WHAT? SPELT? LISTEN, JUST GIVE ME A PLAIN ENGLISH MUFFIN WITH 100% REAL BUTTER, OKAY?
SPELT GRAIN? WHOLE-GRAIN? MORE LIKE MI-GRAINE.
9-17

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

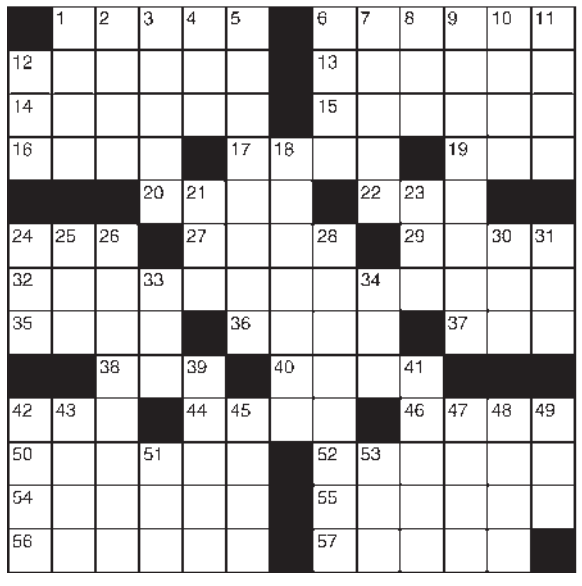
ACROSS
1 G-sharp equivalent
6 Rascally ones
12 Horselike
13 Character
14 Humphrey's running mate in 1968
15 Curve-billed shorebird
16 See 56-Across
17 Drink to excess
19 Pronunciation guide std.
20 Feed the hogs
22 Scale member
24 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
27 Kett of old comics
29 Funny folks
32 Retreating quickly
35 Kournikova or Quindlen
36 "Damn Yankees" vamp
37 TV Tarzan portrayer
38 Barn dweller
40 1492 craft
42 — de deux
44 "Born Free" lioness
46 Oodles
50 Last syllable of a word
52 Typical
54 Bane
55 Optimistic
56 With 16-Across, infield position
57 Improve a text

DOWN
1 Blue hue
2 Commotion
3 Is happy with
4 Blackbird
5 Shun spirits
6 Break suddenly
7 Spelunkers' hangouts
8 From — Z
9 Viscous adhesive
10 Get ready
11 — good example
12 Diplomat's bldg.
18 Choices
21 Allow
23 Possess
24 Tea type
25 Wrestling victory
26 Doubter
28 Bloc
30 Hodges of baseball
31 Eyelid woe
33 Hem and —
34 Author Fleming
39 Ade flavorer
41 Coincide
42 99 of the 101 Dalmatians
43 Lotion additive
45 Come to earth
47 Portent
48 Poet
49 Crafty
51 Equal (Pref.)
53 Resistance measure

Solution time: 27 mins.

B	O	P	■	B	A	M	A	■	S	A	G	A
A	D	O	■	E	V	I	L	■	E	X	A	M
R	O	L	L	C	A	L	L	■	E	E	L	S
B	R	E	A	K	S	■	S	K	Y	■	■	■
■	■	■	Y	F	T	■	T	I	A	R	A	S
S	A	B	E	R	■	J	A	M	■	E	L	L
O	V	F	R	■	W	A	R	■	M	F	S	A
F	I	T	■	Z	I	G	■	A	E	S	O	P
A	V	A	T	A	R	■	A	D	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	P	E	■	G	U	I	N	E	A
M	I	N	X	■	I	O	L	L	C	A	L	L
E	R	I	E	■	A	L	O	T	■	D	I	M
W	E	B	S	■	P	E	W	S	■	A	A	A

Yesterday's answer 9-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jimmie Johnson, 36; Constantine Maroulis, 36; Kyle Chandler, 46; Cassandra Peterson, 60.

Happy Birthday: Communicate, travel and learn all you can to prepare for what you want to achieve. Set your goals high and you will impress the people you need in your corner. Embrace new methods to make the most of the skills and talents you possess. Reaching out to others will lead to greater popularity and assistance. Your numbers are 3, 12, 17, 22, 29, 35, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Carefully consider before you jump in a direction that will require a lifestyle change. Let personal decisions ride and concentrate on professional moves. Plan to pick up skills, knowledge and information to ease any transition you pursue. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Interact with people who have something of interest to share. Knowledge can help you whittle your way into new groups and opportunities to up your income. Mix business with pleasure to win the confidence of people who can help you advance. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Consistency will be important. Stick to one direction and you will be seen as stable and confident. Love is on the rise. Socialize if you are single, or plan something special for two. Day trips will stimulate your imagination. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't get dizzy because everything around you is moving. You are the glue and must remain constant to stay in control. Don't let added burdens get you down. Taking on extra responsibility will give you the leverage you need to get your way. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may think you appear as an exciting, risk-taking individual; however, overspending, overindulging and overdoing will make you look unstable. Take control of spending habits and put your money into something that will add to your security. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your curiosity will lead to interesting findings. You can get ahead using skillful, practical tactics. Someone else's loss can be your gain. Ferret out good deals, set your price and make your move. You are on a winning streak. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look over your personal papers and consider the changes to secure your position. Talk to people with experience and stick to safe bets that will enable you to ride out any storm. Take advantage of any deals that cross your path. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Good fortune can be yours if you aren't shortsighted. Don't let emotions cost you. Now is not the time to spend to impress. A partnership can help ease your economic situation by sharing costs. A business opportunity will become profitable. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Talking too much will cost you. Say little and do a lot if you want to get ahead and impress people. Nurture important relationships and your love life will be enhanced. You don't need to spend money to have fun. Use your imagination. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your strategy will pay off where investments and assets are concerned. Spend time at home and discuss ways to get rid of liabilities. A family effort will bring you closer together and help you financially and personally. Avoid travel. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Strive for stability by being responsible. Consider whom you want to work with and whom you do not. Your choice will lay the foundation for how far you'll get. Love is in the stars. With the right person you can build something durable and special. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Friends, family and community events will help you gain popularity with the people who count. A partnership with someone who shares your interests will develop. Lay down the ground rules so there is no mistaking what you expect in return. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a practical, determined and industrious opportunist. You seek knowledge and wisdom and express your thoughts fervently.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1			5		3			7
		3				8		
8								2
	5	2	3		4	3	9	
			2		7			
9								1
		4				7		
2			1		6			5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	1	6	9	4	8	3	5	2
2	4	9	7	5	3	8	1	6
5	8	3	2	6	1	7	4	9
1	5	4	6	9	7	2	3	8
6	3	2	8	1	5	4	9	7
8	9	7	4	3	2	1	6	5
3	6	8	1	2	9	5	7	4
4	7	5	3	8	6	9	2	1
9	2	1	5	7	4	6	8	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHARITY RUNS Solution: 4 letters

T	G	P	S	B	G	N	I	R	A	P	E	R	P	T
D	N	O	I	T	A	V	I	T	O	M	P	I	R	T
E	I	E	C	H	R	N	R	A	E	W	T	O	O	F
H	S	F	M	H	S	E	D	D	E	E	P	S	J	I
S	I	T	F	E	A	R	T	S	S	P	A	C	E	T
I	A	S	N	E	G	R	O	C	U	Y	T	I	C	N
N	R	N	E	E	R	A	G	S	H	N	D	G	T	E
I	D	I	I	L	M	E	R	E	N	A	I	E	S	S
F	N	A	A	O	B	T	N	U	N	O	S	T	W	S
S	U	P	I	T	J	B	A	C	O	T	P	O	E	F
E	F	A	M	I	L	Y	I	E	E	C	R	S	A	O
T	A	C	H	E	S	N	E	N	R	K	N	I	T	C
U	S	L	A	O	G	E	V	E	N	T	S	E	E	U
O	T	E	V	I	T	C	A	M	U	S	C	L	E	S
R	A	I	S	E	G	A	S	S	E	M	U	S	I	C

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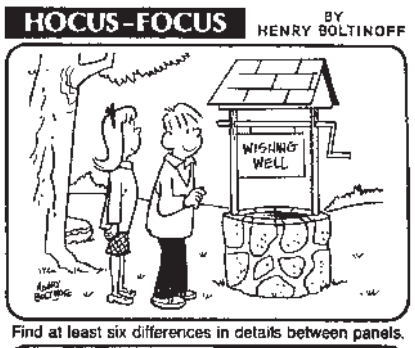
Aches, Active, Bands, Charge, City, Dancing, Difference, Encouragement, Entries, Events, Family, Fast, Finished, Fitness, Focus, Footwear, Fundraising, Goal, Join, Message, Motivation, Muscles, Music, Nibbles, Pains, Preparing, Projects, Raise, Routes, Save, Space, Speed, Sponsorship, Stretch, Support, Sweat, Test, Treatments, Trip, Unite, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Thriller

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Girl's hair is different. 2. Skirt is black. 3. Flowers added around well. 4. Rock is missing. 5. Fence has been added. 6. Boy has short sleeves.

Wishing Well®

7	4	6	2	4	8	5	2	4	6	3	8	5
F	D	P	T	Y	I	P	A	N	L	S	D	R
2	5	8	7	6	7	8	3	8	4	3	4	5
K	E	E	O	U	C	A	W	S	A	E	M	S
4	2	7	2	6	2	8	3	2	7	3	8	3
I	E	U	S	N	O	A	E	L	S	T	R	V
4	2	8	5	2	3	4	3	8	7	2	3	4
C	I	E	T	D	I	T	C	F	E	S	T	H
6	7	6	7	4	5	2	4	8	2	7	5	2
G	N	E	E	O	I	T	U	L	A	R	G	N
8	7	5	7	5	2	8	7	8	4	7	8	3
O	G	E	I	A	D	W	E	I	G	S	N	O
5	3	8	4	3	6	5	6	5	4	5	4	5
T	R	G	H	Y	I	W	N	O	T	R	S	K

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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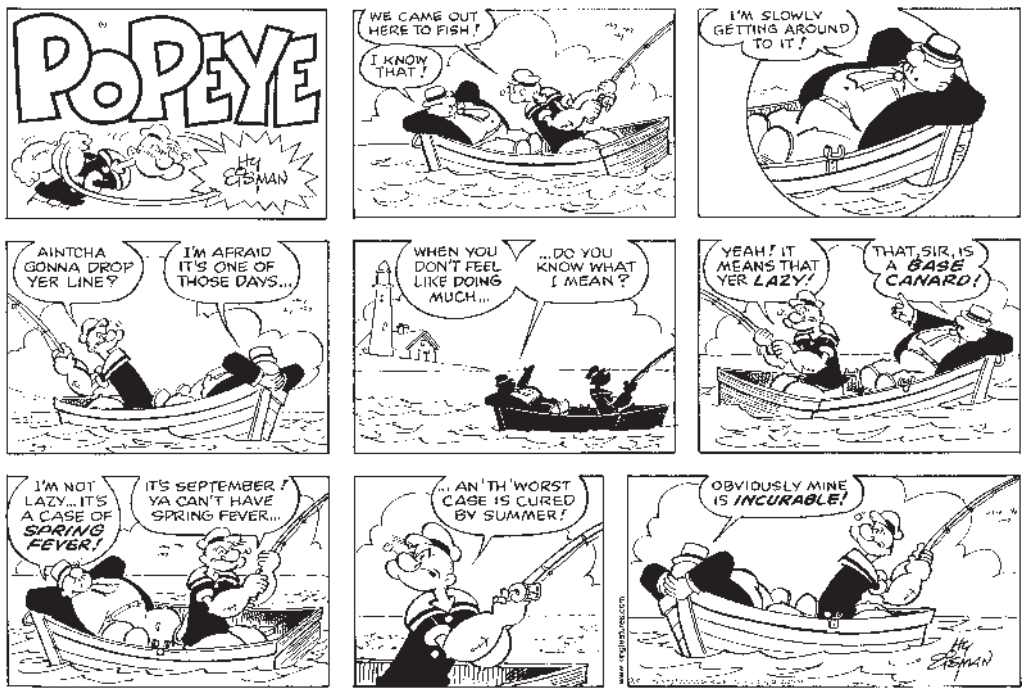
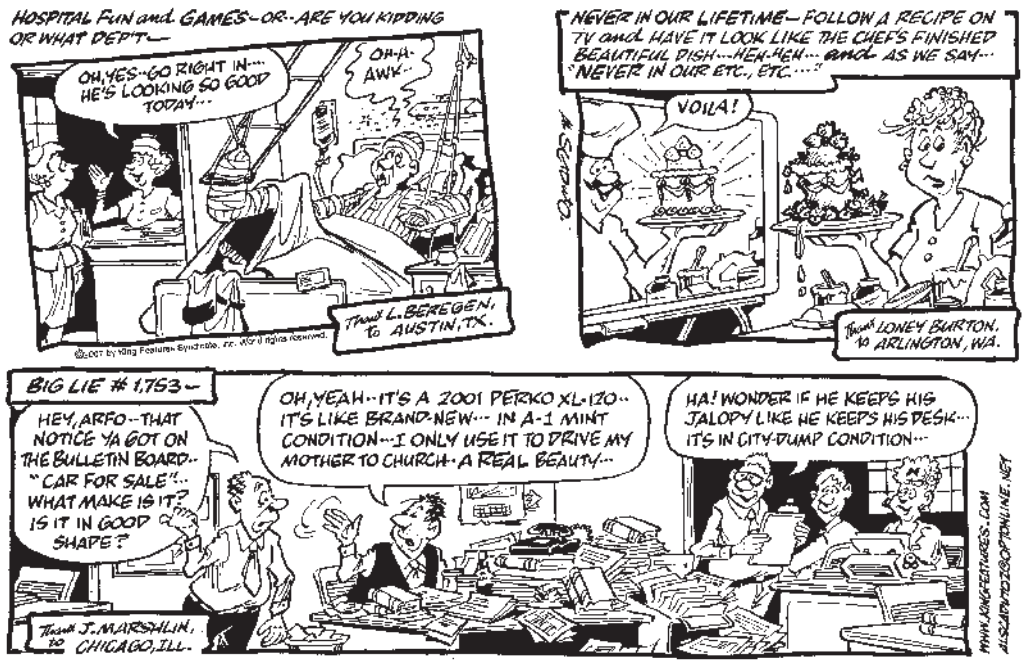
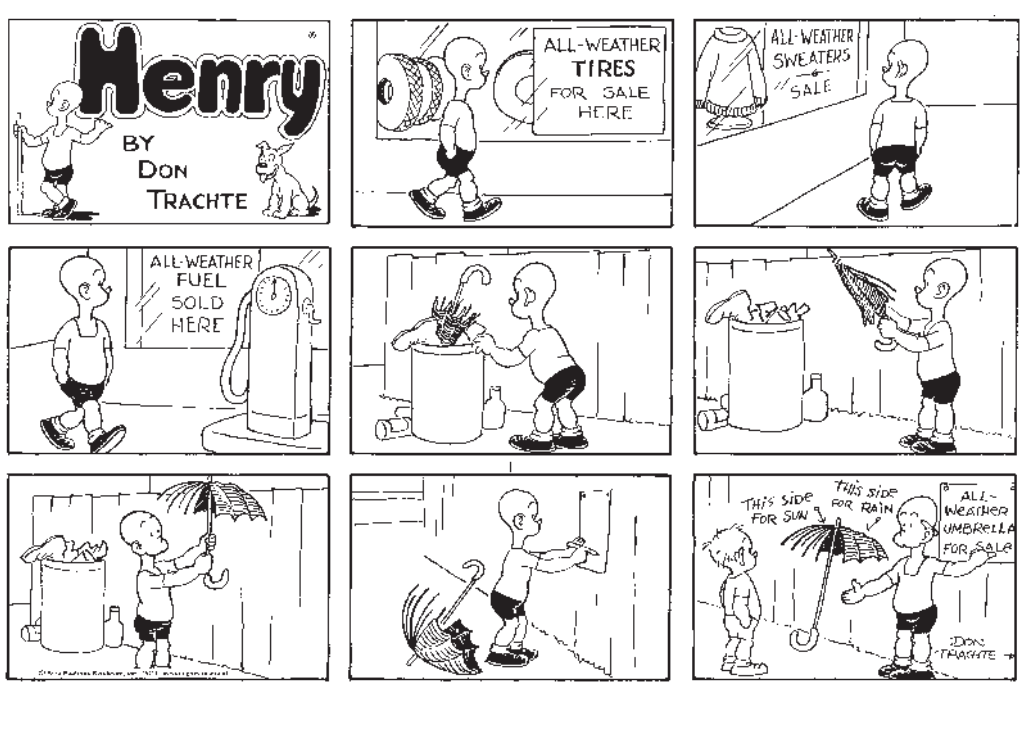

POPEYE
HY EISMAN
WE CAME OUT HERE TO FISH!
I KNOW THAT!
I'M SLOWLY GETTING AROUND TO IT!
AINTCHA GONNA DROP YER LINE?
I'M AFRAID IT'S ONE OF THOSE DAYS...
WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING MUCH...
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
YEAH! IT MEANS THAT YER LAZY!
THAT, SIR, IS A BASE CANARD!
I'M NOT LAZY... IT'S A CASE OF SPRING FEVER!
IT'S SEPTEMBER! YA CAN'T HAVE SPRING FEVER...
..AN' TH' WORST CASE IS CURED BY SUMMER!
OBVIDUSLY MINE IS INCURABLE!

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


HOSPITAL FUN and GAMES—OR—ARE YOU KIDDING OR WHAT DEPT—
OH,YES—GO RIGHT IN.... HE'S LOOKING SO GOOD TODAY...
OH-H-AWK-
Thank L. BEREGEN, TO AUSTIN, TX.
NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME—FOLLOW A RECIPE ON TV and HAVE IT LOOK LIKE THE CHEF'S FINISHED BEAUTIFUL DISH—HEH-HEH—and AS WE SAY... "NEVER IN OUR ETC., ETC...."
VOILA!
Thank LONEY BURTON, TO ARLINGTON, WA.
BIG LIE # 1,753—
HEY, ARFO—THAT NOTICE YA GOT ON THE BULLETIN BOARD— "CAR FOR SALE"... WHAT MAKE IS IT? IS IT IN GOOD SHAPE?
OH, YEAH—IT'S A 2001 PERKO XL-120— IT'S LIKE BRAND-NEW— IN A-1 MINT CONDITION—I ONLY USE IT TO DRIVE MY MOTHER TO CHURCH—A REAL BEAUTY—
HA! WONDER IF HE KEEPS HIS JALOPY LIKE HE KEEPS HIS DESK— IT'S IN CITY-DUMP CONDITION—
Thank J. MARSHLIN, TO CHICAGO, ILL.
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
ALSCADUTOSOFTONLINE.NET

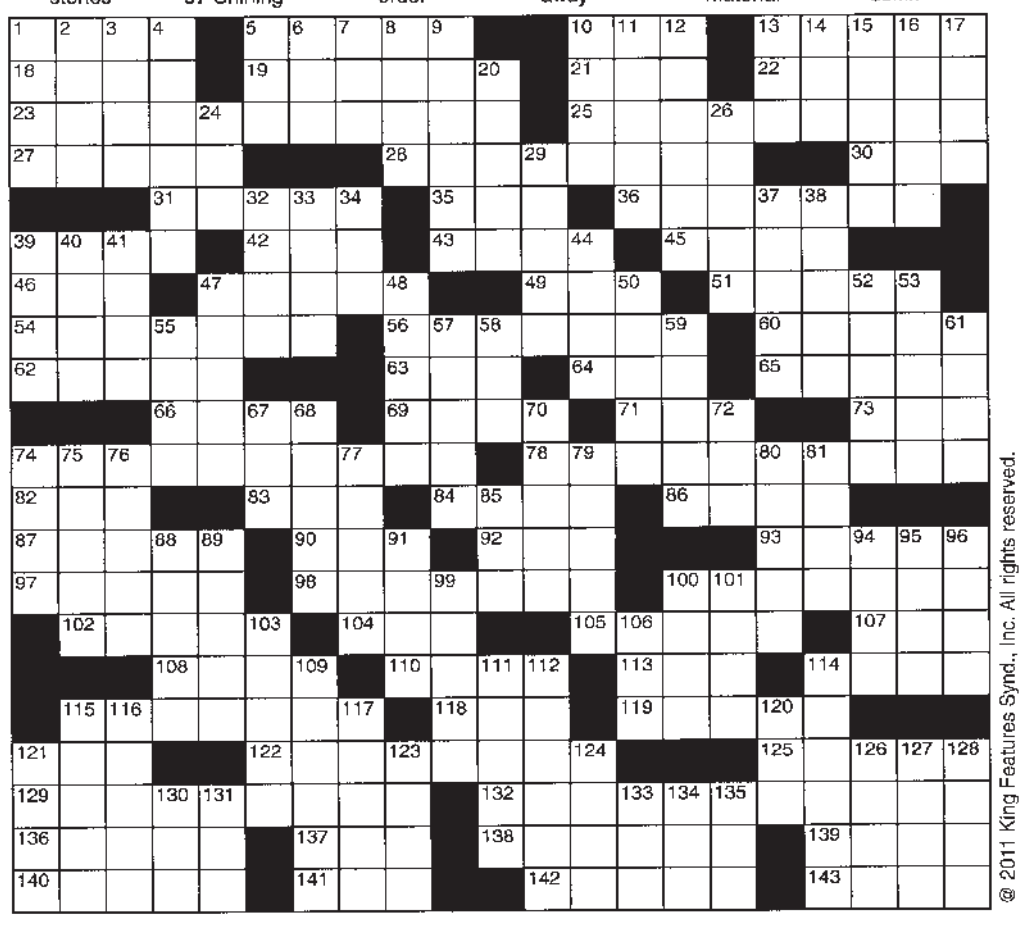


Super Crossword

MEN OF LETTERS

ACROSS
1 Pay to play
5 "Forever —" ('47 film)
10 "Go, team!"
13 Window parts
18 German river
19 "The Gong Show" guy
21 Fit — fiddle
22 Jergens or Astaire
23 "The Shadow over Innsmouth" author
25 "In a Free State" author
27 "Big Three" site
28 Most loathsome
30 Ring official
31 Po land
35 Word form for "environment"
36 '62 Tornadoes smash
39 "The Nibelung-enlied," e.g.
42 Golfer Trevino
43 Omit
45 Wooden strip
46 — Aviv
47 Adventure stories
49 — Dawn Chong
51 Singer Vaughan
54 "Perelandra" author
56 "The Time Machine" author
60 Writer Erich
62 Game fellow?
63 Actress Alicia
64 "Cara —" ('65 song)
65 Hard to lift
66 Lesage's "Gil —"
69 Zhivago's love
71 CT hours
73 Charged atom
74 "The Catcher in the Rye" author
78 "Women in Love" author
82 Southern constellation
83 Cal. page
84 Tibetan monk
86 Do Europe
87 Gymnastics event
90 Scoundrel
92 Columnist Smith
93 Lamb and pork
97 Shining
98 "Charlotte's Web" author
100 "Winnie-the-Pooh" author
102 Broadcast
104 — Tome
105 Jitterbug dance
107 Mink's coat
108 Spruce
110 Use a poniard
113 Fairway accessory
114 "Cheerio!"
115 Earphones
118 Maestro de Waart
119 Proprietor
121 Chum
122 Fraught with danger
125 Fall birthstone
129 "A Passage to India" author
132 "The Code of the Woosters" author
136 Post or Bronte
137 Zsa Zsa's sister
138 Explanatory phrase
139 Corporate VIP
140 Panelist Paul
141 — Tin Tin
142 Steakhouse order
143 Pants part

DOWN
1 Pale
2 Wine valley
3 Hard to believe
4 Amatory
5 Vigoda or Burrows
6 Rock's Fleetwood —
7 "I'm freezing!"
8 Ages
9 "100 —" ('69 film)
10 Sitarist Shankar
11 Selling point
12 Crumby kid?
13 With 32 Down, court sport
14 Business dept.
15 Anne of "The Daytrippers"
16 More morose
17 Egotist's darling
20 — shift
24 Tub
26 Hold-up man?
29 Fancy fabric
32 See 13 Down
33 Triangle parts
34 Indeed
37 Squirrel away
38 Stooge count
39 Emulate Rembrandt
40 Chihuahua dough
41 Poorly
44 Reading matter?
47 Bulge
48 Sedimentary rock
50 Architect Saarinen
52 Once more
53 Devastation
55 Isle near Corsica
57 Knot
58 Combat
59 Egyptian Nobelist
61 Director Adrian
67 Objective
68 — drum
70 Come clean
72 Terrible age?
74 Part of Indonesia
75 Races a jalopy
76 — Sainte Marie, MI
77 Up for — (available)
79 Eye color
80 Card game
81 "... — saw Elba"
85 Mohammed — Jinnah
88 Actress Luft
89 Jacket material
91 "— brillig . . ."
94 — Romeo
95 Hardware item
96 Blood components
99 "Heartbreak —" ('56 hit)
100 From the top
101 Mideastern gulf
103 Hornets
106 Skater Midori
109 Wobble
111 Take on
112 Purchased
114 Girl Scout units
115 Overdramatic
116 Puckish
117 Roman fountain
120 Numerical suffix
121 Role for Rigg
123 Persia, today
124 Medicine cabinet item
126 Immaculate
127 On a whale watch, perhaps
128 Gusto
130 Time-honored
131 Deli loaf
133 Oklahoma native
134 Uproar
135 Nationality suffix



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: Which one of Alfred Hitchcock's films won a Best Picture award?
2. PRESIDENTS: Who was the 21st president of the United States?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "xeno" mean?
4. TELEVISION: What was the name of the 1950s game show hosted by Groucho Marx?
5. FOOD & DRINK: What are the eight vegetables in V8 juice?
6. AD SLOGANS: What was the peanut butter that "picky people pick"?
7. RELIGION: What was the religion of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania?
8. MUSIC: What were Frosty's eyes made of in the children's Christmas song?
9. LITERATURE: John Steinbeck's novel "Sweet Thursday" is a sequel to what earlier book?
10. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the mouth of the Mekong River located?

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Answers
1. "Rebecca"
2. Chester Arthur
3. Strange or foreign
4. "You Bet Your Life"
5. Tomatoes, spinach, beets, carrots, celery, lettuce, parsley and watercress
6. Peter Pan Peanut Butter
7. He was a Quaker
8. Coal
9. "Cannery Row"
10. Vietnam

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

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• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Derek Fisher, center, president of the NBA players union, is joined by NBA players, union executive director Billy Hunter, right, and and other NBA players during a news conference Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, in Las Vegas.

NBA players present unified front in labor impasse

NEW YORK (AP)—Eleven weeks into the lockout, NBA players and owners have at least one thing in common. Each side is unified, and wants everyone to know it.

Solidarity among the ranks was the loudest message that emerged Thursday from separate gatherings to provide their constituents an update on collective bargaining talks.

The meetings came two days after a session between the union's executive committee and the owners' labor relations committee brought no progress after the league refused players' desire to keep the current salary cap system.

The union emerged from that setback saying the Nov. 1 scheduled start of the regular season could be in jeopardy. Training camps have been expected to open Oct. 3.

Union president Derek Fisher raised the notion of "a fundamental divide between the owners internally" in a letter sent to his membership earlier this week. But after four hours of meetings among league owners in Dallas, Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver insisted "there is absolute agreement, and it's a complete fiction coming from somewhere that there isn't."

Commissioner David Stern hinted at some difference of opinion when he said there was "virtual unanimity on approach." He then explained that the differences are minor.

"Some people might say they want a hard cap with this wrinkle and someone says I want a hard cap with that wrinkle," Stern said. "But I would say there is unanimity in favoring a hard cap—period."

Fisher and union executive director Billy Hunter met with about 40 players at a Las Vegas casino in what Fisher described as "a very colorful and engaging meeting." NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith also spoke to the players, who were mostly in town to play in an Impact Basketball academy league.

"There is not the fracture and the separation amongst our group that in some ways has been reported," said Fisher, the Los Angeles Lakers point guard. "We just want to continue to reiterate that point."

Owners "could not agree with each other on specific points of the deal (Tuesday) and therefore it caused conflict within the league and its owners. So it is our hope that ... at the owners meeting in Dallas that they work out their differences, come up with a revenue sharing plan that will protect their teams and are then ready to come together and sign off on the agreement we as a smaller group deemed reasonable."

Stern said the owners spent as much time Thursday talking about revenue sharing as they did collective bargaining. He added that a planning committee meeting is scheduled for Friday in New York.

Stern said no negotiating sessions are planned with the union, but "we'll both be in New York starting tomorrow and it wouldn't surprise me if there was some conversation."

The union's emphasis on solidarity stems from suggestions that players could get antsy once they start missing paychecks in a few weeks. NBPA members have been educated for several years about the steps necessary to survive a long lockout, and Fisher said the union will continue to protect the rights of players who sign overseas this fall.

"I've never seen this union as strong as we are collectively right now," said Boston Celtics center Jermaine O'Neal, among the few remaining players who participated in the 1998-99 labor dispute. "A lot of our young guys are wide-eyed when they see the numbers at first, but now they're educated. We don't need to make a temporary, emotional decision. We need to make a long-term decision for a bigger purpose."

Players discussed union decertification during their meeting, but Hunter emphasized the union believes such a drastic step isn't an imminent strategy despite behind-the-scenes calls for the move from several agents. NFL players dissolved their union to file an antitrust lawsuit against the league earlier this year.

Fisher rejected the notion that the NBPA is waiting for a ruling on a charge filed with the National Labor Relations Board for unfair bargaining practices, although Hunter said he plans to travel to Washington next week in hopes of getting an expedited ruling.

"Sometimes it's implied that we're waiting, posturing, sitting on the sideline and waiting for something to happen favorable for us with the NLRB," Fisher said. "That's just not the case. It's part of this process, but we're still taking action. We have to negotiate a deal, and that's the only way we'll get what's fair for these guys."

If NBA owners are searching for cracks in the players' unity, as Fisher and Hunter believe, the union attempted to provide a visual answer. Over 30 players stood together behind Fisher and Hunter at a brief news conference, wearing identical gray T-shirts with one large word in yellow: "STAND."

"All the agendas that might be pushed by different groups, they don't have a way in as long as we stand shoulder to shoulder," Fisher said.

Stern said he was glad to see it.

"We would like to negotiate with a strong union that's capable of delivering a deal," he said. "I think that's a very positive step."

The league also announced a five-year deal with referees. Asked whether those refs will have games to work starting Nov. 1, as scheduled, Stern said, "That's a really good question."

"The clock is ticking, but it hasn't struck midnight yet," he said. "We have time to do what has to be done and we'd like to do it, actually."

Rose rises to the occasion in chilly Chicago

BMW Championship

LEMONT, Ill. (AP)—Feeling as though he had nothing to lose, Justin Rose put himself in position for a big gain with his best round of the year Thursday in the BMW Championship.

Rose made birdie on half of his holes at Cog Hill, a tough course that played even longer in chilly conditions, giving him an 8-under 63 and a two-shot lead over Webb Simpson and Mark Wilson.

"Didn't expect that going out there today," Rose said. "I looked to the weather, looked at the temperature, and I thought today was going to be a day to hang in there. Little did I know I was about to play so well - certainly my best round of the year by a long, long way. And could have been top five, top 10 rounds I've ever played for sure."

There were other reasons he didn't see it coming.

Since a solid spring through the Masters, the 31-year-old player from England lost his way and went 10 straight tournaments without a top-10 finish. He is No. 34 in the FedEx Cup, and because only the top 30 advance to the Tour Championship and a shot at the $10 million bonus, Rose figured he might as well give it his best shot.

It was better than he imagined.

He didn't miss a single fairway and only twice had to scramble for par.

One round made his prospects for the FedEx Cup brighten considerably, although plenty of other players took advantage of relatively soft greens that made up for the swirling breeze and temperatures that eventually climbed into the 60s.

Simpson remained hot despite the weather.

He won for the first time on the PGA Tour a month ago at Greensboro, then won again two weeks later in the Deutsche Bank Championship to move to the top of the FedEx Cup and assure himself one of the coveted top five positions at East Lake. Another week, another course, and there he is again.

"Luckily, I was able to keep the momentum in the good stretch I had in Boston going into today," Simpson said. "We got off to a really good start and made a few really good saves there in the middle of the round and finished with a couple birdies coming in. It was a good day for the tough course and tough conditions we were facing."

Simpson made it sound simple, which is how golf can feel when a player is winning.

It wasn't that way for everyone.

Dustin Johnson, the defending champion at Cog Hill, sputtered at the start and then stumbled at the turn, making five bogeys for a 40 on his back nine for a 76. Jason Day had a 77, while Bubba Watson was wild off the tee and didn't make a single birdie in his round of 78.

Phil Mickelson nearly joined them. He took double bogey on the par-3 second hole when his flop shot from the other side of the green only went one-third of the way toward the hole and stayed in the collar of the rough. Another towering flop shot wound up 12 feet by the hole. Lefty was 4 over through five holes, but ran off four birdies and salvaged a 72.

The measure of Rose's good round was that his 63 was nearly nine shots better than the average score in the opening round, and only 16 other players managed to break 70.

K.J. Choi opened with a 67, while the group at 68 featured Jim Furyk and Camilo Villegas, both of whom need a big week to advance to the Tour Championship. Villegas narrowly got into the FedEx Cup playoffs, starting at No. 109, and now has the Tour Championship in his sights.

"Who cares where you are right now," Villegas said. "It's all about just playing good golf from here the next three days and hopefully advancing."

Rose said he cleaned up his swing with coach Sean Foley during a practice session Tuesday, making sure the club was not laid off at the top of his swing. He found a simple swing though, stuck with it, and watched it pay off in a big way.

As for his position in the FedEx Cup? Rose didn't even bother to do the math.

"I've got nothing to lose this week," he said. "That's my strategy. That's my attitude. Right now, I'm not going to Atlanta. I've got everything to gain this week. That's really the way I'm seeing it. Guys who are 26, 27, 28, 29, who have played well all year, they might be pretty tense this week because they feel they deserve to be in Atlanta.

Phillies move closer to NL East title

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Ryan Howard hit an RBI double in the 10th inning soon after Cliff Lee fell one strike short of his seventh shutout, and Philadelphia beat Florida 2-1 on Thursday night to sweep a doubleheader.

The Phillies, who won the opener 3-1, reduced their magic number for clinching a fifth straight NL East title to two.

Jose Lopez spoiled Lee's shutout bid when he hit a tying home run on an 0-2 pitch in the ninth.

Lee struck out 12 and allowed five hits in nine innings.

John Mayberry Jr. gave the Phillies a 1-0 lead with a homer in the sixth inning.

Michael Schwimer (1-0) tossed a scoreless 10th for his first career win.

Michael Martinez walked to lead off the 10th against Burke Badenhop(notes) (2-2). Howard then lined a 3-1 pitch deep to left-center and Martinez scored easily.

In the opener, Kyle Kendrick threw five sharp innings for the Phillies.

Kendrick (8-6) didn't allow a hit until Logan Morrison homered to lead off the fifth. He gave up one run and one hit, striking out six.

The major league-leading Phillies (97-51) moved within five wins of setting a season franchise record.

Alex Sanabia allowed one run and six hits in six innings in Game 2. Anibal Sanchez (8-8) pitched six strong innings, but was the hard-luck loser in the opener. He gave up two runs and four hits, striking out seven.

Giants 8, Rockies 5

In Denver, Pablo Sandoval tripled in the sixth inning to complete the first cycle of his career and San Francisco kept its slim postseason hopes alive.

Ryan Vogelsong (11-7) pitched effectively into the sixth inning and had two hits, and Brandon Belt homered for the Giants, who have won five straight and prevented Arizona from moving closer to clinching the NL West. The Diamondbacks lead the Giants by seven games with 12 to play.

Sandoval homered in the first, doubled in the second and singled in the fifth. In the sixth he hit a fly ball to the base of the wall in right-center field and beat the throw to third for the triple to complete the cycle.

The four hits all came against starter Jhoulys Chacin (11-12).

Sandoval is the 25th Giant to hit for the cycle and the first since Fred Lewis accomplished the feat May 13, 2007, also at Coors Field. It is the 10th cycle recorded at Coors Field.

Jordan Pacheco and Chris Iannetta homered for the Rockies.

Nationals 10, Mets 1

In New York, Ian Desmond had a career-high five hits and Tommy Milone earned his first major league win, leading Washington to a four-game sweep.

Desmond drove in three runs and Ryan Zimmerman had two RBIs for the Nationals, who won their fifth straight overall and moved past the Mets into third place in the NL East. The franchise has not finished third or higher since 2002, when it played in Montreal and ended the season in second place.

Making his third major league start, Milone (1-0) allowed one run and three hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Wilson Ramos added three hits for Washington.

New York has lost six straight, one shy of its longest streak this season, finished 1-8 on the homestand and were outscored 48-26.

Chris Schwinden (0-2) tossed five solid innings in his second big league start.

Reds 8, Cubs 6, 11 innings

In Cincinnati, Jay Bruce hit a two-run homer in the 11th inning for Cincinnati.

Joey Votto led off the 11th against James Russell (1-6) with a double. Bruce connected on the next pitch for his 31st homer, giving the Reds their third straight win over Chicago after losing the opener of the four-game series.

Nick Masset (3-5) pitched the 11th for the win.

The Cubs handed Francisco Cordero his first blown save since July 10—a stretch if 16 straight—by scoring twice in the ninth to make it 6-all.

Reds starter Homer Bailey, who hadn't allowed more than two home runs in any of his previous 19 starts this season, gave up two—to Carlos Pena and Marlon Byrd—in a span of four batters in the first inning.

Pirates 6, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Ross Ohlendorf got his first win of the season in seven starts and hit a three-run homer to help the Pirates beat the Dodgers, a loss that mathematically eliminated the bankrupt franchise from the NL West race.

AP

Florida Marlins' Emilio Bonifacio, right, steals second base as Philadelphia Phillies shortstop Michael Martinez, left, handles the late throw during the sixth inning in the first baseball game of a doubleheader, Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, in Philadelphia. Philadelphia won, 3-1.

Ohlendorf (1-2) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings, struck out six and walked none. It was the right-hander's fifth start since rejoining the team on Aug. 23 after a stint on the disabled list with right shoulder discomfort.

Ohlendorf won for the first time on the road since Aug. 11, 2009, at Colorado.

All-Star Joel Hanrahan got pinch-hitter Aaron Miles to fly out to left field with the bases loaded in the ninth to earn his 38th save in 41 chances.

Dana Eveland (2-1) gave up four runs and eight hits in five innings.

Rays 9, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Boston shortstop Marco Scutaro had to dodge a broken bat and wound up letting the go-ahead single through his legs on Thursday night as the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Red Sox 9-2 and cut their deficit in the AL wild-card race to three games.

The Red Sox dropped to 3-11 in September to fall from first place in the division to 4 1/2 games behind the New York Yankees and into a race with the Rays for the wild-card. Boston and Tampa Bay play three more times at Fenway Park this weekend.

B.J. Upton(notes) broke a scoreless tie in the third inning with his bat-aided RBI single, and Evan Longoria(notes) followed with a three-run homer. Casey Kotchman(notes) added a two-run shot in the sixth to make it 6-1, and in the seventh Upton hit a two-run homer and Kotchman added an RBI single.

Jeremy Hellickson (13-10) allowed one run on three hits and four walks, striking out four in 5 2-3 innings. Kyle Weiland (0-2) pitched three-plus innings, giving up four runs on three hits and two walks.

Athletics 6, Tigers 1

In Oakland, David DeJesus hit a three-run homer in the first, Brandon McCarthy pitched seven strong innings and the Athletics snapped Detroit's 12-game winning streak, delaying the Tigers chance to clinch the AL Central Division title.

Delmon Young hit a home run for the Tigers, who still say their magic number drop to one when the Cleveland Indians fell to the Texas Rangers 7-4 earlier in the evening. The Tigers need any combination of a win or a Cleveland loss over the final 12 games to clinch the division.

McCarthy (9-8) allowed one run on five hits to improve to 3-2 with a 2.15 ERA over his last five starts. He walked two and struck out eight.

Max Scherzer (14-9) lasted five innings, giving up five runs on seven hits. He walked one and struck out eight.

Rangers 7, Indians 4

In Arlington, Michael Young hit a three-run double to go over 100 RBIs for the second time in his career and the AL West-leading Rangers completed a three-game series sweep of Cleveland.

Cleveland's loss cut Detroit's magic number for clinching the AL Central to one. The Tigers played later at Oakland.

Josh Hamilton homered for the third straight game and Adrian Beltre also homered in extending his career-best hitting streak to 19 games.

Texas stretched its division lead over the idle Los Angeles Angels to 3 1/2 games.

Royals 7, White Sox 2

In Kansas City, Melky Cabrera had four hits, including a home run, and Billy Butler hit a three-run homer to lead the Royals to a victory over the White Sox.

The loss officially eliminated the White Sox from the playoffs.

The Royals' five-game winning streak is their longest since they won five straight from Sept. 7-11, 2009.

Cabrera's four-hit game matched a career high and his double in the sixth was his 40th as an outfielder—he has one as a DH. The Royals are the first team in major league history to have three outfielders with 40 or more doubles. Alex Gordon and Jeff Francoeur both have 45.

Butler's 19th home run in the sixth inning came off Mark Buehrle (11-9), who has lost five of his last six starts.

Tebow trusts Fox, will bide his time

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Save your bankroll and your breath Tim Tebow fans, the object of your desire and the target of your dislike both agree this is Kyle Orton's offense.

Tebow said Thursday that while he's honored his fans are cheering for him to take over as the Denver Broncos' quarterback, he trusts his coach and will bide his time without complaint.

"Well, I guess I appreciate the support, you know, but we got people in charge here that we trust and (I) trust they're going to do the right thing," Tebow said.

AdChoices

A group of Tebow supporters have said they'd like to buy two billboards in downtown Denver urging coach John Fox to bench Orton in favor of the former Florida star.

Tebow said he'd rather they donate the $10,000 to his charitable foundation.

"That's a good idea, man," Tebow said.

Especially because Fox probably wouldn't see the billboards anyway, and even if he did, he certainly wouldn't be swayed by them.

"Well, I've seen a lot of billboards and I can't remember one that really influenced me," Fox said.

Tebow never came close to beating out Orton this summer and was even outplayed by Brady Quinn.

Tebow's fans started calling for him anyway when Orton had a poor performance in Denver's 23-20 loss to Oakland on Monday night, when he fumbled the ball away without getting hit while his tight end was open in the end zone for the go-ahead score in the fourth quarter.

While the Raiders salted away the win, Tebow's fans made sure they were heard.

"You don't have a chance but to notice it," teammate Kevin Vickerson said. "You hear it: `Te-bow! Te-bow!'"

Along with the catcalls directed at Orton, who fell to 11-18 as the Broncos' starter.

"I love our fans' passion, as I mentioned before, the fact that they care enough to do whatever they do," Fox said. "I know they cared enough Monday night. We had a great crowd. They were very vocal and they care about the team. So, I think that's a tribute to the fans."

Orton went 24 of 46 for 304 yards and a touchdown, an interception, a fumble and five sacks against the Raiders.

Hall of Famer John Elway, now the Broncos' chief of football operations, chimed in Thursday, tweeting, "If decisions were made based on one week, I'd have been outta here after my first start!"

That was on Sept. 4, 1983, at Pittsburgh, where Elway was just 1 for 8 for 14 yards with one interception and four sacks.

The Broncos introduced the defense in the opener and will introduce the offense Sunday, when there will probably be some boos for Orton again.

Still, Orton has the support of the only man who matters—Fox.

"Right now we feel like Kyle Orton gives us our best chance. Even the staff before us felt that way," Fox said. "… I think he'll improve this week, and I expect him to. Right now, he's our starting quarterback. There's no question about that."

Quinn in all likelihood would go in if Orton were to get hurt, so when Tebow plays is anybody's guess.

Tebow said the Broncos don't have a specific package of plays right now that are designed to capitalize on his running skills like they had last year, when he went in on short-yardage situations on occasion before starting the last three games of the season.

"But if they wanted to dial it up I'm sure we've (practiced) that stuff enough times just to go out there and run it," Tebow said.

Orton grew testy when a reporter asked him Wednesday if he felt any added pressure with the fans booing him and calling for Tebow. He said the contingent of fans voicing their disapproval doesn't bother him.

"I just look at it like I don't care," Orton said. "(Fox's) opinion and my teammates' opinions will always be the ones that matter."

Tebow said he's not affected by the chants, either.

"I just try to stay focused on what I can control," he said. "And everything else, the good, the bad, in between, I can't do anything about it, so I'm not going to spend my time worrying about it."

The Broncos are expecting to face rookie quarterback Andy Dalton when they host Cincinnati on Sunday.

Tebow said he won't be wondering, "Why not me?" as he stands on the sideline.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	90	58	.608	–
Boston	86	63	.577	4 1/2
Tampa Bay	83	66	.557	7 1/2
Toronto	75	74	.503	15 1/2
Baltimore	60	88	.405	30

Central Division

Detroit	87	63	.580	–
Chicago	73	76	.490	13 1/2
Cleveland	72	75	.490	13 1/2
Kansas City	65	86	.430	22 1/2
Minnesota	59	89	.399	27

West Division

Texas	86	64	.573	–
Los Angeles	82	67	.550	3 1/2
Oakland	68	82	.453	18
Seattle	62	87	.416	23 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

z-Philadelphia	97	51	.655	–
Atlanta	86	64	.573	12
Washington	71	77	.480	26
New York	71	79	.473	27
Florida	67	83	.447	31

Central Division

Milwaukee	87	63	.580	–
St. Louis	81	68	.544	5 1/2
Cincinnati	74	76	.493	13
Pittsburgh	68	82	.453	19
Chicago	65	85	.433	22
Houston	51	98	.342	35 1/2

West Division

Arizona	87	63	.580	–
San Francisco	80	70	.533	7
Los Angeles	73	76	.490	13 1/2
Colorado	70	79	.470	16 1/2
San Diego	63	87	.420	24

z-clinched playoff berth

Yesterday's Games

Washington 10, N.Y. Mets 1
Philadelphia 3, Florida 1, 1st game
Philadelphia 2, Florida 1, 10 innings, 2nd game
Cincinnati 8, Chicago Cubs 6, 11 innings
San Francisco 8, Colorado 5
Pittsburgh 6, L.A. Dodgers 2
Tampa Bay 9, Boston 2
Texas 7, Cleveland 4
Kansas City 7, Chicago White Sox 2
Oakland 6, Detroit 1

BMW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

LEMONT, Illinois (AP)–Scores Thursday from the $7.5 million BMW Championship at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club's 7,616-yard (6,964-meter), par-71 Dubsdread course:

FIRST ROUND

Justin Rose	30-33–63
Webb Simpson	33-32–65
Mark Wilson	33-32–65
K.J. Choi	31-36–67
Jim Furyk	35-33–68
Camilo Villegas	33-35–68
John Senden	35-33–68
Robert Karlsson	35-34–69
Rickie Fowler	34-35–69
Zach Johnson	35-34–69
Chez Reavie	35-34–69
Sergio Garcia	35-34–69
Chad Campbell	33-36–69
Robert Allenby	34-35–69
Hunter Mahan	35-34–69
Jimmy Walker	34-35–69
Geoff Ogilvy	34-35–69
Lucas Glover	38-32–70
Y.E. Yang	34-36–70
Jonathan Byrd	35-35–70
Carl Pettersson	37-33–70
Gary Woodland	38-32–70
Bill Haas	36-34–70
Sean O'Hair	33-37–70
Jason Dufner	36-35–71
Keegan Bradley	36-35–71
David Toms	38-33–71
Nick Watney	34-37–71
George McNeill	35-36–71
Jerry Kelly	34-37–71
Scott Stallings	34-37–71
Aaron Baddeley	37-34–71
Brandt Snedeker	35-36–71
D.A. Points	33-38–71
Marc Leishman	35-36–71
Cameron Tringale	36-35–71
Kyle Stanley	34-38–72
Charles Howell III	36-36–72
Matt Kuchar	34-38–72
Ernie Els	37-35–72
Martin Laird	38-34–72
Rory Sabbatini	34-38–72
Phil Mickelson	38-34–72
Fredrik Jacobson	38-34–72
Chris Stroud	38-34–72
Johnson Wagner	36-37–73
Spencer Levin	34-39–73
Charl Schwartzel	38-35–73
Jhonattan Vegas	38-35–73
Chris Kirk	33-41–74
Ryan Moore	39-35–74
Ryan Palmer	38-36–74
Brian Davis	36-38–74
Adam Scott	37-37–74
Blake Adams	36-38–74
Brandt Jobe	38-37–75
Charley Hoffman	40-35–75
Luke Donald	39-36–75
Brendon de Jonge	36-39–75
Steve Marino	37-39–76
Steve Stricker	39-37–76
Vijay Singh	39-37–76
Dustin Johnson	40-36–76
Bo Van Pelt	36-40–76
Tommy Gainey	37-40–77
Andres Romero	40-37–77
Scott Piercy	38-39–77
Jason Day	41-36–77
Brendan Steele	40-38–78
Bubba Watson	38-40–78

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sabalu Boys stretch Tuesday B lead

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Sabalu Boys, Es'y's SOS Jokers, VFW Post 3457's One Shot, and are the current frontrunners in their respective divisions in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association after last week's games.

Sabalu Boys routed sister team Mixed-Bloodshooters 2 in their Tuesday B division pairing, 13-2, and improved to a 59-16 record. Sabalu Boys have gashed an 11-game margin over sister-team Delubyo. Ten teams make up the field.

In other results in the Tuesday B division, fourth-ranked Oleai Baech Bar & Grill's GCC Carpeters (41-34) upset Delubyo at home, 8-7; Es'y's Shawarma (46-29) Boy knocked off Oleai's Strike Force (32-43 in an away game, 10-5, and remain in third place; Jonny's Bar & Grill's Dosukebe Boys (30-45) upset Oleai's Ombre Za (38-37) on the road, 8-7; and last place Oleai's K-1 Snickers (17-58) upset VFW's Assashunz (24-51) in a road match, 9-6.

K-1 Snickers' Anthony Fitial posted a 160 High In and Dosukebe's Kento Togawa scored a 113 High Out in their respective pairings.

SOS Jokers breezed past Oleai's D'Companeros (35-5) on the road Wednesday, 12-5, to move up to a 54-31 slate for the lead in the Masters division. They hold a three-game advantage over Es'y's IT&E Kamotes thanks partly to a 9-8 road upset by the third- ranked D'Pirates Destroyers (50-35) over the current runners-up.

Other results in the Masters division saw the Oleai Snipers (36-49) edge Jonny's Azkals (29-56) on the road, 9-8. Six teams make up the division.

Destroyers' Sadiri "Boy" Martin and D'Companeros' Julius Monton each posted 160 High In, while Azkals' Jayson "The Fire" John marked a 150 High Out in their respective pairings.

In the C division, One Shot downed-third ranked D'Pirates' Yotsketeh Boys (43-32) on the road last Wednesday, 11-4, to take first place in the 10-team field with its 52-23 card.

Sand's Bar's Anies Imuza defeated D'Pirates Lucky Shot (32-43) at home, 12-3, for second place. Oleai's Sparks (40-35) bested Bar Gaia's Gaiana-C (24-51) at home, 11-4, for a fourth place seat. Gaia's World-C upset Joe's Bar's I Like It at home, 10-5, while Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Oh! MG defeated Jonny's Night Hawks in another home match, 9-6.

Oh! MG's Jarick Atalig scored a High-In 140 and Yotskete Boys' Buddy Garote posted a High Out 138 in their respective matches.

IT&E Voyagers, Shark Attack ahead in 8-ball league

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jonny's Bar & Grill's' IT&E Voyagers and Shark Attack, of Wild Bill's Bar & Grill are on top of the leaderboard in the Saipan Billiards Association 2011 Budweiser 8-Ball League after last Tuesday's games.

IT&E Voyagers moved up from second to first place in the Agingan division after shutting out X-Tream in a road match at VFW Post 3457, 7-0. The Voyages now hold a 16-5 record for a one-game lead over Utopia Sports Bar's Docomo Hustlers.

Notably, fourth-ranked Jonny's Home Boyz Five (10-11) upset the Hustlers in a home game, 4-3, while Sand's Bar's IT&E Incredibles (13-8) defeated Fotten Palau (5-16) on the road at Joe's Bar, 5-2.

On Tuesday, IT&E Voyagers host the Docomo Hustlers, X-Tream welcomes Fotten Palau, and IT&E Incredibles duels Home Boyz Five.

Shark Attack remains atop the Obyan leaderboard with its 14-7 late, but was ambushed at home by now second-ranked Team Pirata of D'Pirates Bar & Grill, 3-4. Team Pirata now sits just a game behind its rival in the standings.

In other results, the last place 19th Hole Titans (7-14) upset third-ranked Jonny's Team SCS (11-10), 4-3, and Jonny's Crazy 8 (10-11) defeated 19th Hole Poksu (8-13) in a home match, 5-2.

Action in the Obyan division continues on Tuesday, as Team SCS hosts Poksu, the Titans meets Shark Attack, and Team Pirata collides against Crazy 8.

MDX

From Page 28

fell apart early, as it played with a depleted crew, having only six players for the match.

MDX capitalized on SWAFSO/Ebisuya's lack of manpower early on with almost all of the former's players who suited up in the first quarter making it to the scoreboard. Three players nailed at least five points each for MDX.

SWAFSO/Ebisuya picked up its scoring in the second period with Mike Surima, firing 13 straight markers at one point in that frame. However, his one-man show was not enough to bring SWAFSO/Ebisuya back into the match, as MDX still outgunned them, 28-17. By halftime, MDX was way ahead, 54-23.

Then after improving its offense in the second canto, SWAFSO/Ebisuya was back on a cold mode in the third, making only nine points. Again, only Surima managed to pile up points for SWAFSO/Ebisuya, nailing seven of their total production in the third period.

MDX kept its 20-plus production, drilling 21 markers to pad the lead to 33 points, 75-32, entering the final quarter.

With its six-man crew, there was no way SWAFSO/Ebisuya could overhaul the huge deficit in the payoff period, moving the team in the brink of elimination.

Bernard Montano paced MDX with 21 points, while Bruce Berline and Arnold Crisostomo chipped in 15 and 12, respectively. Four other MDX players added at least six points apiece in the team's balance offense.

Surima led all scorers with his 29 markers, while Joel Buniag and Dionie Malicdem finished with 12 markers apiece, but most of their baskets were giveaways.

MDX/Armatech 98 – Montano 21, Berline 15, A. Crisostomo 12, Canedo 9, Moreno 9, Banatasa 7, Abuy 6, Jinang 5, Trajano 4, Malasarte 3, P. Crisostomo 2.

SWAFSO/Ebisuya 64 – Surima 29, Buniag 12, Malicdem 12, Rio 7, Echavez 4.

Scoring by quarters: 26-6, 54-23, 75-32, 98-64.

REPAIRS

From Page 28

following week," Division of Sports and Recreation director Jojo Attao said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Attao added the first project that was completed was the fencing of the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield on May 9.

The "Tan Ge" field is used by Public School System for its elementary slow-pitch competition and the high school fast-pitch contest. Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. also uses the field from February to May.

The Ada Gym hosts a lot of competitions, specifically basketball leagues and when the facility closed in April this year, organizers moved their games to the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

The Coalition of Private School Sports Association used the Ada Gym for its volleyball games last season and then moved the basketball matches at the TSL Sports Complex. COPSSA's 2011-2012 volleyball season has started last month and it might use the Ada Gym, if available, anew as venue for its playoff games next month.

The rehabilitation work at the Oleai Sports Complex is made possible through the Community Development Block Grant funding.

According to NMHC's Zenie Mafnas, the total project cost was $292,428, with $23,425 allotted to the fencing works, $189,096 to the flooring and installation of the telescopic bleachers, and $79,907 for the roofing and rehabilitation of the restrooms.

TITLE

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Mayweather to finally face Filipino star Manny Pacquiao, provided "Pac-Man" defeats Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez in November, next year in a bout that fight fans have sought for years.

"I believe in my skills. I believe in my talent," Mayweather said. "This fight will not go the distance."

It also could mark Mayweather's farewell, with a possible sentence of 34 years behind bars if convicted on all charges in a domestic violence dispute from last September involving former girlfriend Josie Harris.

"He's done," Ortiz said. "I don't care what he brings. He was done when he signed to fight Victor Ortiz. America wants to see change. Change is coming soon."

Mayweather, 41-0 with 25 knockouts, has not fought since beating Shane Mosley by unanimous decision in May of last year but is confident he can handle champion Ortiz, who at 24 is 10 years younger than the challenger.

AdChoices

"I've fought them all, never backed down, stayed focused and was always at my best," Mayweather said. "I don't have to brag, I don't have to boast. I'm going to go in there and execute the game plan."

Southpaw Ortiz, 29-2-2 with 22 knockouts, won his first world title five months ago with a unanimous decision over previously unbeaten Andre Berto.

"I am going to teach you what it's like to have a loss on your record," Ortiz said to Mayweather in the final pre-fight news conference. "I'm going to hold my hands up and I'm going to put you on your ass."

Ortiz dismissed Mayweather's perfect record, saying, "41 of those fighters were not me, 41 of them couldn't move like me.

"Floyd is a good fighter but I've always thought he wasn't great. I'm not impressed and I'm not going to hold any respect like his 41 victims."

The undercard features a showdown for the vacant World Boxing Council super lightweight crown between Mexicans Erik Morales and unbeaten Pablo Cesar Cano.

Morales, 51-7 with 35 knockouts, has not held a world title since 2004 but hopes to climb back to the top at age 35.

Since unifying the WBC and IBF super featherweight crowns in 2004, Morales has lost six of 10 fights, his most recent bout a majority-decision loss to Argentina's Marcos Maidana last April for the WBA interim light welterweight title.

Cano, 22-0 with one draw and 17 knockouts, receives his first title bout at age 21 as a last-minute replacement for Argentina's Lucas Matthysse, who dropped out last week with a viral infection.

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the deadlock, having beaten the former in their lone meeting on Aug. 20, 101-79.

MDX failed to barge in the win column in his last game after losing control of the match in the second half. MDX led by as much as 13 points in the second period and hung on to a 51-44 halftime cushion before Freddie Pelisamen, Tim Wesley, and Joy Dayrit bailed Cavite out of trouble in the third canto.

Wesley, who was held to only two field goals in the first half, scored nine markers in the third period, with six of them coming in the closing minutes of that quarter, which ended with Cavite grabbing the lead, 70-66. Dayrit also helped in the third-period recovering, firing two triples and scoring eight points, while Pelisamen chipped in seven.

Cavite managed to keep its distance against MDX in the final canto and this time it was Fando Muleta's turn to make important baskets for Andok's. The Cavite point guard scored seven of his nine markers in the final canto. Dayrit, Wesley, and Pelisamen continued to contribute on the team's cause in the fourth period, combining for 15 of Cavite's 28 points.

Pelisamen top-scored for Cavite with 30 points and connected on six triples, while Wesley and Dayrit finished with 17 and 14, respectively. Jon Artates and Mike Olaitiman also had double figures, nailing 10 apiece.

Alex Lauron led MDX with his 26 markers, but was held to only one field goal in the fourth period. Zack Babauta logged 15, making nine of them from downtown in the fourth canto.

Cavite/Andok's 98 – Pelisamen 30, Wesley 17, Dayrit 14, Olaitiman 10, Artates 10, Muleta 9, Montano 2.

MDX/Blue Haus 91 – Lauron 26, Babauta 15, Palacios 12, Johanes 11, E. Diaz 9, Z. Diaz 7, Tenorio 6.

Scoring by quarters: 15-26, 44-51, 70-66, 98-91.

NBA players present unified front in labor impasse
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MDX/Armatech makes Final Four

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX/Armatech's Martin Moreno is seen here going up for a shot against a MAFEA/RNV defender during their regular season game in the UFO Masters Docomo Cup at the TSL Sports Complex. MDX is now in the semis after a 98-64 demolition of SWAFSO/Ebisuya on Thursday night.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MDX/Armatech secured a Final Four berth after whipping SWAFSO/Ebisuya, 98-64, at the start of the playoff round in the UFO Inter-Organization Masters Basketball Docomo Pacific Cup 2011 on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

MDX/Armatech now joins pennant champion Cabalen/Wings Travel in the semifinals, while SWAFSO/Ebisuya must win its next game against the loser of the VisMinda/PIAHI/-MAFEA/RNV tiff to advance to the Final Four. VisMinda and MAFEA will square off for the third semis seat on Tuesday, Sept. 20, while the fourth and last semis ticket will be contested on Thursday, Sept.22.

The first playoff game in the masters division was done right after the opening quarter, as MDX zoomed to a commanding 26-6 lead. SWAFSO/Ebisuya

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Cavite seals last playoff seat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cavite/Andok's caught the last bus to the playoff round of the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011 Bud Cup after pulling off a come-from-behind win over MDX/Blue Haus, 98-91, on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Cavite/Andok's finished the round-robin regular season with a 2-5 record, while MDX/Blue Haus closed out its campaign without a single win in seven games. Cavite/Andok's placed seventh in the nine-team field, one win ahead of NMBA/Mixed Blood, which holds a 1-5 record and will face Ali'i Konflikt in its last game tomorrow. A win over Ali'i Konflikt will put NMBA in a tie with Cavite, but the latter has the edge in

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Cavite/Andok's Mike Olaitiman is seen here making a fastbreak layup against NMBA/Mixed Blood's Dennis Morales during their regular season match in the UFO Bud Cup caging at the TSL Sports Complex. Cavite booked the last playoff seat and eliminated NMBA after topping MDX/Blue Haus on Thursday night, 98-91.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

AP

Floyd Mayweather, left, and Victor Ortiz square off for a photo after a boxing news conference, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011, in Las Vegas. The pair are slated to fight for Oritz' WBC welterweight title on Saturday, Sept. 17.

Mayweather takes aim at Ortiz's title

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)— Undefeated Floyd Mayweather, nagged by legal woes that could send him to prison, ends a 16-month layoff on Saturday by fighting Victor Ortiz for the World Boxing Council welterweight title.

The all-American showdown could set the stage for

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Repairs at Oleai complex near completion

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rehabilitation work at the Oleai Sports Complex is scheduled to finish in October and facilities will open a week after completion.

According to both the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Division of Sports and Recreation, the completion date for the repairs of the roofing and the men's and women's restrooms at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium is set for Sept. 30, while the rehabilitation of the flooring and men's locker room and installation of telescopic bleachers are expected to finish by Oct. 1.

"Upon completion of the repairs, we will be opening the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield is shown here with its new fence. Other repairs at the Oleai Sports Complex are expected to be completed next month.